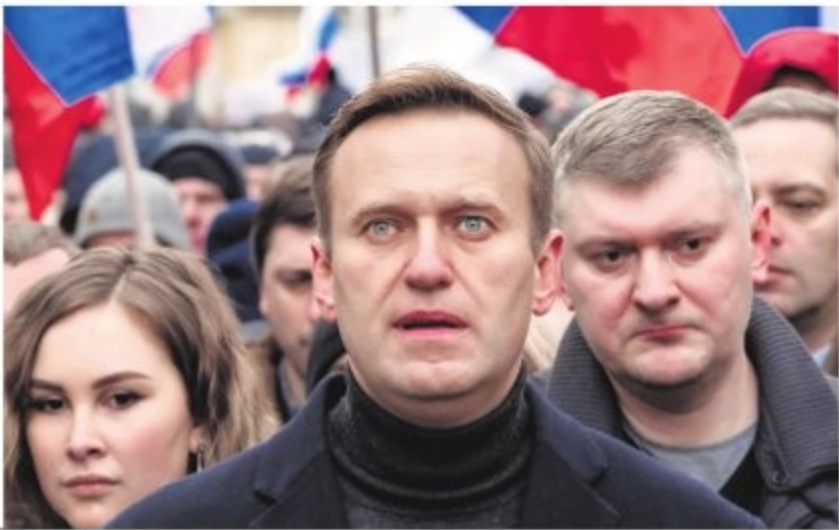




**'NAVALNY'S BODY
GIVEN TO MOTHER'**

The body of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny has been handed over to his mother, Ivan Zhdanov, the director of Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation, announced on his Telegram account on Saturday. Earlier in the day, Yulia Navalnaya, Navalny's widow, accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of mocking Christianity by trying to force his mother to agree to a secret funeral after his death in an Arctic penal colony | P11



Social Welfare Department

My Constitution, My Life...



'The Constitution & National Unity Convention' For

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Directive Principles of the State Policy of Our Constitution are non-binding, non-enforceable and non-justiciable. But integrity is about doing the right thing even when no one is watching. Our government, led by **Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Siddaramaiah**, believes in doing the right thing; always.

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VALEDICTORY FUNCTION

February 25, 2024 | 1.30 pm
Krishna Vihar, Palace Grounds, Bengaluru

SCAN QR CODE for road map to venue & further details



Sri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister



Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa
Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare
speaking on the democratic principles
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DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) (**HDFC**) under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s), within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice(s), as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to **HDFC**, within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below in their respective names, together with further interest @ 18% p.a. as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the respective dates mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realization, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to **HDFC** by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset(s).

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(f)
1	Mr. Prateek S Hanchate, (Borrower), # 54/4-P, Mangalwar Peth Kumbhar Oni, Dharwad-580001 Also at: Capgemini Technology Services India Limited, Designation: Consultant, Department: IT, 117 & 118 Divyasree Techno Park Road, No.3, Bengaluru-560066 Also at: Unit-97, Bluejay Uttar, S No 237/1 To 6, Devanahalli Village, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural- 560063.	Loan A/c No. (1) 679753752 Rs.24,96,697/- (2) 681216048 Rs.53,249/- Rs. 25,49,946/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Forty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Six Only) as on 31.01.2024	14.02.2024 ----- N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.11.2023	Schedule A : All that piece and parcel of Residentially Converted land bearing (a) Sy.No.237/1 measuring 1 Acre; (b) Sy.No.237/2 , measuring 1 Acre and (c) Sy.No.237/3 , measuring 1 Acre (d) Sy.No.237/4 , measuring 1 Acre (e) Sy.No.237/5 , measuring 1 Acre (f) Sy.No.237/6 , measuring 31 Guntas totally measuring 5 acres 31 Guntas situated at Devanahalli 4th Division & Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore, boundaries as follows: Boundaries: East by : Other Part of Sy.No. 236, West by : Sy.No. 239, North by : Sy.No.238, South by : Sy.No.236. Schedule B : All that piece and parcel of immovable residential property bearing Vacant Plot No.97, having Khata No.2288/237/12/3/4/5/6/97 , in BIAAPA approved layout bearing No. BIAAPA/TP2/LAO/27/2014-15 Dated: 30.03.2015, known as " BLUEJAY UTTAR " carved out of residentially converted land bearing Sy. No. 237/5 of situated at Devanahalli 4th Division & Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, measurement and boundaries as follows: Measurement: East to West : 12.19 Meters, North to South : 9.14 Meters, in all Measuring : 111.417 Square Meters Boundaries: East by : Plot No 82, West by : Road, North by : Plot No 98, South by : Plot No 96. And any construction thereon present and future.
2	(1) Mr. Das Partha Sarathi (Borrower), # 40 7th Main 1st Cross, Chowdeshwari Layout, Near Ganesh Temple, Marathahalli, Bengaluru 560037 Also at : Capgemini Business Services India Limited, Designation: Team Manager, Department: Finance and Account, 1st Floor Divyasree Tech Park, Whitefield, Bengaluru-560048 Also at : Unit-302, 3rd Floor, Mill Pond Apartment, Gururaj Layout, Near Raghavendra Swamy, Doddanekundi Village, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore 560037 (2) Mrs. Neethakshi (Co-Borrower) 146/7, Sai Sivi Nilaya, 1st Floor, Shanthi Apartment, Nehru Road Jeepu Mangalore, Kankananad, Mangalore Dhakshina Kannada 575002 Also at : Unit-302, 3rd Floor, Mill Pond Apartment, Gururaj Layout, Near Raghavendra Swamy, Doddanekundi Village, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore-560037.	Loan A/c No. (1) 657392603 Rs.26,90,875/- (2) 657392610 Rs. 9,17,120/- Rs. 36,07,995/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakhs Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Five Only) as on 31.01.2024	14.02.2024 ----- N.P.A. Date: (e) 04.07.2023	Schedule A : Item -1 : All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing Site No.20, HASB Katha No.417/1, CMC Katha No.89, Present BBMP Katha No. 1091, situated at Gururaja Layout, Doddanekundi Village, K R Puram Hobli, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, Presently Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 61+56 2 feet totally measuring 2340 Sq.feet , presently under the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: East by : Site No 21, West by : Site No.19, North by : Private Property, South by : Road. Item -2 : All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing Site No.21, HASB Katha No.417/1, Present BBMP Katha No. 1090, situated at Gururaja Layout, Doddanekundi Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, Presently Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West 51 feet and North to South 69+61 feet. 2 totally measuring 3315 Sq.feet , presently under the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP, presently under the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: East by : Private Property, West by : Site No.20, North by : Private Property, South by : Road. COMPOSITE SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property being Site bearing Nos.20 & 21 , earlier BBMP Katha Nos.1090 & 1091, present amalgamated BBMP Katha No.1090, situated at Gururaja Layout, Doddanekundi Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, Presently Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West 91 feet and North to South on the Eastern side 69 feet, on the Western side 56 feet, totally measuring about 5655 Sq.feet, presently under the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: East by : Private Property, West by : Site No.19, North by : Private Property, South by : Road SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY : 191 Sq.ft undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property mentioned in Schedule "A" above. SCHEDULE "C" PROPERTY : North facing Flat bearing No.302, in the Third Floor., measuring about 882 Sq.ft. super built up area, containing Two bed rooms, together with RCC Roofing, Vitrified flooring together with One covered car parking space, including proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircase, etc., in the multistoried building known as " MILL POND " constructed over Schedule "A" Prope ty.

*with further interest @ 18% p.a. as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to **HDFC Bank Limited** as aforesaid, then **HDFC Bank Limited** shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immoveable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immoveable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of **HDFC Bank Limited**. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 25.02.2024

Place: Bangalore

For HDFC Bank Ltd.

Sd/- Authorized Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd. under SARFAESI Act, 2002



THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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I remain CEO, Byju Raveendran tells staff

A day after the investors of troubled edtech firm Byju's voted for a leadership change, Byju Raveendran penned a note to employees asserting he continues to remain CEO and management remains unchanged, as he dubbed Friday's EGM as a "farce". Raveendran emphasised that rumours of him being fired from Byju's "have been greatly exaggerated and highly inaccurate". | P12



Prosperity of farmers

1 lakh 25 thousand PM Kisan Samridhi Kendras developed as one stop shop; Farmers are getting modern facilities and information close to home



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Wayanad to WPL hero, Sajana's incredible journey

KALYANI MANGALE @ Chennai

EVERY now and then, sport throws up incredible stories. Before the final ball of the match between Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals on Friday, Sajeevan Sajana was just another player trying her craft in a relatively new enterprise: Women's Premier League.

She needed to score five off the last ball to steal the win for Mumbai. She promptly deposited the ball into the stand behind long on. It has turned her

into an overnight star.

Not long ago, she was struggling to even travel between places to play. First year of WPL she was ignored. This year Mumbai Indian drafted her for ₹15 lakh. The journey started in school, on nondescript grounds around her home at a village (Mananthavady) in Wayanad while playing with boys. Her romance with cricket took off in humble environs with her parents — her father Sajeevan is an auto driver and mother a panchayat councilor — struggling to meet



Sajana S in MI colours | MI

her sporting ambitions.

Sajana described her early struggles after the match where

she recollected how she did not have funds to travel. "I didn't have money to travel. When I got selected for the district, I started earning money, ₹150 per day, and it was a big amount for me," Sajana said in a video posted by MI after the match.

Away from the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Suman Sharma, the head coach of the Kerala women's cricket team, was nervously watching the game. She also recollected the struggles Sajana had to go through. Apart from the humble background she has come from, the 2018 Kerala floods too

wrecked havoc. "I think Sajana and I were going through the same emotions (laughs)," Suman told this daily. "The 2018 floods were particularly hard for her family," said Suman, who had coached her for more than a decade.

"The water covered the first floor where she was staying. I cannot even imagine how she and her family survived those difficult times." Suman also said that the family supported her throughout. "To travel for cricket every day from the area she comes from was a challenge in itself," Suman said. | P13

Overthrow those who are against Statute, says Siddu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said two negative propaganda are going on against the Constitution that it is for the salvation of Dalits and is not in accordance with the socio-economic situation of the people. Citizens should not tolerate such propaganda and stand strong to protect the Constitution, he exhorted.

Inaugurating the 'Constitution and National Unity' conference organised by the Social Welfare Department at Palace Grounds, he said people who are against the Constitution are behind this propaganda.

"The Constitution clearly mentions freedom, equality and fraternity. The propaganda has prevailed since the Constitution came into effect on January 26, 1950. This should not be tolerated. If the Constitution is protected, we will all survive. Otherwise, we will be in danger," he warned. To make his point, he quoted former US President Abraham Lincoln: "We are the rightful masters of the Constitution... not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow those who are against the Constitution."

CONTINUED ON: P6

₹46 per person consumption a day by poorest

Latest Household Consumption Expenditure Survey shows wide gap between rich & poor

AVERAGE SPENDS

The survey shows that the rural population spends an average of 46% on food items while the same is 39% for urban population



The bottom 5% of India's rural population, ranked by MPCE, has an average PCE of ₹1,373 while it is ₹2,001 for the same category of population in the urban areas

Among UTs, MPCE is highest in Chandigarh (₹7,467) and urban (₹12,575), whereas it is the lowest in Lakshadweep (₹5,475) for rural and urban areas

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

THE poorest 5% of the country survives on a daily consumption of just ₹46 per person in rural areas and ₹67 in urban areas, the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2022-23 shows.

The survey, which took place after over a decade, also shows the large gap in consumption between the bottom 5% and the top 5%. The per capita daily consumption for the richest 5% of the population is ₹350 in rural areas and ₹700 in urban areas.

According to the survey, the average monthly per capita consumption (in current prices) in rural and urban areas was ₹3,773 and ₹6,459 respectively - 2.5 times the monthly consumption recorded in 2011-12.

However, much of the growth in monthly consumption over the previous decade is because of inflation. In real term, monthly per capita consumption has grown by only 1.3 times in urban areas and 1.4 times in rural areas.

At 2011-12 prices, the same expenditure stood at ₹2,008 in rural India and ₹3,510 in urban India in 2022-23. This analysis, excludes the imputed values of items received free of cost through social welfare programmes.

The bottom 5% of India's rural population has an average monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) of ₹1,373 while it is ₹2,001 for the same category of population in the urban areas. The top 5% of India's rural and urban population has an average MPCE of ₹10,501 and ₹20,824, respectively.

Among the states, MPCE is the highest in Sikkim for both rural and urban areas (₹7,731 for rural and ₹12,105 for urban). It is the lowest in Chhattisgarh (₹2,466 for rural and ₹4,483 for urban). The rural-urban difference in average MPCE among the states is the highest in Meghalaya (83%) followed by Chhattisgarh (82%). The last time such a survey was conducted by the National Sample Survey Office was in 2017-18, but the report was junked by the government after the findings indicated a fall in consumer spendings.



Rescue operations on at a pond in UP's Kasganj district on Saturday after an overloaded tractor trolley driven at high speed overturned and fell into it. As many as 22 people, including eight children, were killed | P71

SPEED KILLS

POWER OF GAVEL

Defamation case against BJP to go on; HC rules party can be person

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

Rejecting BJP's contention that it is a political party and not a 'person' to initiate defamation proceedings against it, the Karnataka High Court said that not just a person, even an association of individuals including entities like political parties can be arrayed as accused in criminal defamation cases.

"I am of the considered opinion that the word 'whoever' inter alia employed in Sections 499 and 500 of IPC implicitly includes an association of individuals, whether incorporated or not like the petitioner herein and such entities can be arrayed as accused in criminal proceedings of the kind," said Justice Krishna S Dixit, dismissing the petition filed by BJP, represented by its then president Nalin Kumar Katel. He had questioned the defamation case filed by Congress MLA Rizwan Arshad.

BJP had moved the court, questioning the case pending before the Magistrate Court to try cases against former and sitting MPs and MLAs in the city, based on a private complaint filed by Rizwan. He had pointed to alleged defamatory tweets by BJP against him in 2019, under Section 499 read with Section 500 of IPC. BJP had alleged that Rizwan was behind a racket fabricating fake voter ID cards. The Magistrate took cognisance of the offence and issued summons to BJP.

BJP contended that it is a political party and not a 'person'. It being only a 'society'

or 'association of persons', such entities do not fit into the word 'whoever' employed in both Sections and the proceedings are not maintainable.

But the court said that unlike private individuals, politicians and political parties consciously expose themselves to close scrutiny by the public and they have to display a greater degree of tolerance. Their image and reputation have a bearing on the electoral process and its product, and cannot be disputed. Disreputing them or damaging their public image would not augur well to the system.

A vibrant democracy like ours warrants reasonable protection of the reputation of political parties and elected representatives. The tort or offence of defamation cannot be viewed leniently merely because the punishment prescribed for the offence is not stringent.

According to the Section 106 (2), death of any person by rash and negligent driving not amounting to culpable homicide without reporting it to the police soon after the incident, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to 10 years and fine.

REVAMP

Rollout of new criminal justice laws from July 1

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THREE new laws — Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) — would come into force from July 1, the Centre announced on Saturday.

However, the provision related to cases of hit-and-run accidents — sub-section (2) of Section 106 — will be on hold. "In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (45 of 2023), the central government hereby appoints the 1st day of July, 2024 as the date on which the provisions of the said Sanhita, except the provision of sub-section (2) of section 106, shall come into force."

The three codes were enacted to overhaul the criminal justice system by replacing the British era Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872. Passed by Parliament on December 21, the codes got President Draupadi Murmu's assent on December 25 last year.

The government decided not to roll out the hit-and-run provisions in view of the promise it made to protesting truckers. Truckers had staged a nationwide strike against the stringent punishment for the accident.

According to the Section 106 (2), death of any person by rash and negligent driving not amounting to culpable homicide without reporting it to the police soon after the incident, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to 10 years and fine.

WITH THIS ISSUE

AS YOU LIVE IT

PLUS 12 PAGES

MAGAZINE

EXPRESS READ

Haldwani 'mastermind' arrested from Delhi

Haldwani: The Uttarakhand Police on Saturday arrested the February 8 Haldwani violence alleged mastermind Abdul Malik from Delhi | P8

Cong, AAP formalise deal for five states

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

CLOSE on the heels of the SP-Congress pact in UP, the Opposition's INDIA bloc received another shot in the arm on Saturday with the Congress and the AAP announcing their seat-sharing deal in five states, including Delhi for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Apart from Delhi, they reached agreements for Haryana, Chandigarh, Gujarat and Goa. However, there will be no alliance in Punjab. According to the seat-sharing deal, the AAP will contest four out of the seven seats — West Delhi, South Delhi, East Delhi and

Bharuch rumble

With Bharuch and Bhavnagar going to AAP, late Congress leader Ahmed Patel's son Faisal Patel and daughter Mumtaz Patel were upset as Bharuch was Patel's seat

New Delhi. The Congress will contest from three seats - North East Delhi, North West Delhi and Chandni Chowk. Both parties reached an agreement after months-long deliberations.

Addressing a joint press conference here, senior Congress leader Mukul Wasnik said the AAP will contest two of the 26 seats in Gujarat, and one of the 10 seats in Haryana, while Con-

gress will contest the rest of the seats in these states. The two seats allotted to the AAP in Gujarat are Bharuch and Bhavnagar. In Haryana, the AAP will contest from Kurukshetra. The AAP was represented in the meet by Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj. In Goa, the Congress will contest both the seats and the sole seat in Chandigarh in alliance with the AAP. "Long rounds of talks were held on the Chandigarh seat. It was finally decided that the Congress candidate would contest this seat. We also had detailed deliberations on Goa, and it was decided that Congress will contest both seats," said Wasnik.

MENACE IN DEEP SEAS

Hawksbill turtle found with plastic in its body

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS @ Karwar

THE plastic menace has reached deep seas as a rare hawksbill turtle that was washed ashore near Karwar was found with plastic in its body. Experts termed it an alarming development.

The turtle was found by the patrolling team of the Karwar Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Conservation cell (CMECC) at Majali. "It was probably entangled in a fishing net. When we performed an autopsy, we found plastic in it," said Pramod Naik, Range Forest Of-

ficer, CMECC.

Experts said plastic menace should be addressed soon. "Plastic is mistaken for food by many marine creatures, including turtles. Big plastic items break down into micro and nano plastics because of the sun and waves. These enter the food chain and will be ultimately consumed by humans. As per research findings, seas will have more plastic than fish by 2050. Plastic has already entered salts of different brands. We need to take it seriously and create awareness on it," said Professor Jagannath



Rathod, Chairman, Department of Marine Biology, Karnataka University, Dharwad.

The hawksbill turtle is one of the four sea turtles found in the subcontinent and one of the three turtle species sighted in Uttara Kannada. Protected under Schedule 1 of Wildlife Act, it has a narrow pointed head which looks like a hawk's beak, and that's why the name. They are the smallest among sea turtles and grow up to 2.5 to 3 feet in length. They prefer rocky areas, reefs and lagoons to thrive. They are deep sea dwellers and branded critically endangered as they are poached for the shells that are used to make ornaments.

‘LOOKING FOR POSSIBILITIES THROUGH DISABILITY’

WITH adequate attention and facilities, people with disabilities can become capable contributors to society. Disability is a possibility, it is a diversity. People with special needs need no sympathy, but an opportunity to become active taxpayers rather than docile recipients, said Mahantesh GK, founder, Samarthanam International, in conversation with *The New Sunday Express*. He said the government should not just help in education and employment, but open up more opportunities in sports. Excerpts from the interview:

What motivated you to start Samarthanam Trust? How has the journey been?

My friend Nagesh and I, both being visually challenged, studied in the same school and faced challenges. Nagesh was working with a bank and I was teaching English at University Law College. Having suffered ourselves, we wanted to provide solutions and better facilities for people like us. India being a cricket-crazy nation, we wanted to promote and support cricket for the blind. We also wanted to support higher education. There were schools looking after the needs of blind children till Grade 10, but after that, many were forced to return to their villages. I felt it is our responsibility to give back more than what we got. After visiting other countries and learning of opportunities for the disabled, we decided to start an organisation which addresses their needs using modern technology.

What is its aim?

Unless we make people with disabilities economically empowered, all welfare programmes are a waste. This was one broad reason which prompted my friends and me to start Samarthanam.

What about your personal journey? How did you lose your eyesight?

I come from a joint and progressive family from a village in Bengaluru. I was the first child of

the generation. When I was six months old, I had typhoid which affected my optic nerves. My family accepted it. They looked after me like any other child - neither overprotective, nor discriminating. The real problem started when I had to go to school. I was refused admission due to my disability. My family was disturbed and worried. Using influence, I was admitted to school and used to go with my neighbour. One day an education inspector, during inspection, asked the class a question and I was the only one who answered it. I was asked to write on the board, which was the turning point. The inspector was a very progressive man. He came home and told my parents to admit me to a school for the blind. After rigorous research, my parents found one in Bengaluru. On January 2, 1981, we came to Bengaluru. I never felt blindness was a problem, I took it as a challenge.

What about higher education?

Up to Grade 10, I studied at the school for the blind. But regular college was very difficult for the first six months. I felt like a fish out of water. Making notes on Braille would make a noise and I didn't want to disturb others. Gradually, I started talking to lecturers and friends, and they understood my issues. Back then, awareness was limited. I had to get my books read. My school extended help as I stayed there. They connected me to readers and provided a support system. I used to do combine studies with my friends who would read books for me.

Do you think technology is helping the visually challenged?

Absolutely. Technology makes things easy. I used to study with the help of audio cassettes. Now there is screen reading software for the visually impaired, besides talking mobile phones and computers. At Samarthanam, we ensure technology is always at the top of our interventions, whether it is education, training, getting jobs or cricket. Technology is the biggest enabler for persons with disabilities. It reduces dependency.

Are there adequate audio books?

Audio books are in plenty, courtesy multiple platforms. We also upload all books that are converted into voice or digital format. Any visually impaired person can log in and download them. However, there's a long way to go for vernacular books. Braille is difficult, only four per cent of the world's literature is available in Braille.

Despite technological intervention, why are many not coming forward?

Awareness is most important. Many still live in rural areas. They don't get to know about opportunities and technological devices. Very few can access them as they are very expensive. Samarthanam is trying to go to rural areas and identify such people.

Why is it expensive?

Most of the equipment is not manufactured in India, hence the high cost. With the help of a few organisations, we are trying to encourage production of equipment at a low cost.

Why hasn't it happened yet?

People are complacent. To give my own example, I was very comfortable with a feature phone. It was tough to accept a smartphone, but it was inevitable as button phone production stopped. There are many government schemes which are not easy to access.

Are employment opportunities organized by the Trust?

Being unemployed is challenging for those with disabilities. Following the pandemic, many people with disabilities, particularly visually impaired women, lost their jobs. During a meeting, it was suggested that we organize job fairs. Leveraging our networks, we have successfully coordinated over 130 job fairs in the past 25 months. These fairs attracted around 40,000 aspirants, and helped over 12,000 individuals secure employment.

What are your expectations from the government?

The government must ensure that all slots reserved for people with disabilities are filled, to facilitate their integration into the economic mainstream.



PK: VINOD KUMAR.T

EXPRESS Dialogues

It must support academic pursuits by providing assistive devices that aid education. There is also a need to encourage and motivate teachers in government schools to accommodate students with disabilities, not as an obligation but to provide them with necessary facilities and foster awareness among other students. It is essential that special children feel included and valued in the educational environment, as a strong foundation is paramount. Government should integrate health and Anganwadi workers into disability awareness training programmes to sensitize them to the needs of disabled individuals. These training initiatives should be incorporated into the curriculum.

What is job reservation for the specially abled?

Around 5% of jobs are reserved for people with disabilities, providing numerous opportunities for individuals throughout Karnataka and India.

How did you discover your passion for cricket?

Despite having completed my Masters in English, 99% of my proficiency in spoken English stems from cricket commentary. The excitement generated by the way commentators mod-

ulate their voices influenced me. My neighbour, an engineer and cricket enthusiast, would request me to update him with the score over phone. His personal interest became mine too. Cricket is a sequential game and I had a strong interest in math, it only deepened my passion for the sport.

Did you play cricket?

In 1990, I captained my team in the first national cricket tournament for the blind. After playing the first four matches, my father advised me to prioritize my studies, leading me to transition to an administrative role in organizing cricket events.

Could you explain about the administrative role?

In 2010, we decided to establish the Cricket Association for the Blind, India (CABI), with the goal to develop a world-class cricket team. Despite all efforts, no company wanted to support us with sponsorship. Today, as a lifetime chairman of CABI, I serve as a mentor to the team, overseeing progress.

What about promoting other sports?

We have initiated wall-climbing training programmes, are promoting marathons, and encouraging visually impaired indi-

viduals to participate in unique sports. I urge the government to extend support to sports initiatives, and have appealed to Khelo India to include cricket.

What has been the Indian government's response to needs of people with disabilities?

The Central government has consistently shown a proactive approach. Alimco, a government-subsidized company, manufactures equipment for people with disabilities. A lot more progress needs to be made for obtaining approval for subsidies. The government should streamline this process, and each state government should promote manufacture of devices and equipment for people with physical challenges. Available products such as talking thermometers or BP machines cost three times more than normal ones. By subsidizing such equipment, the government can improve the quality of life for people with disabilities.

What specific resources, services, or initiatives from other countries would you like to see implemented in India?

Countries in the West boast of robust support systems where all needs of the specially abled are covered by the government, including providing physical readers, laptops and Braille typewriters. In India too, the government should provide comprehensive support and make necessary facilities available, along with financial assistance, as many disabled individuals come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. It is my hope that each disabled person becomes a taxpayer, which ensures they are regarded with respect and dignity.

How is blind cricket different from regular cricket?

It is slightly modified. Bowling is underarm and the ball is different. It is made of fibre-moulded plastic which is thick, with tube bearings inside, and rattles when thrown. It is playing with the ears. There is a mark in the centre of the pitch. If the ball bounces before the mark, it is called a 'no ball'. The wickets are made of metal, so there is a different sound when the ball hits a wooden bat or the stumps. There are also three categories of players: Under Type-1 are four players with complete blindness, under Type-2 are three with partial blindness who can see up to 2 metres, and under Type-3 are four players with partial sight. The bowler has to ask the batsman if he is ready before the delivery, and if he assents, the ball is thrown at him.

Is Bengaluru disabled-friendly? Do bad footpaths and roads pose a risk for people with disability?

I agree there are bad pavements and roads. I wonder how people move around. When I used to travel independently 25 years ago, Bengaluru was beautiful. People could move around comfortably, there was less traffic and people were very helpful. They still are, but civic amenities need to improve. Many get hurt, fall into pits and drains, or bang into pillars. Many walk into trucks parked by roadsides - this is because the walking cane goes easily under trucks due to ground clearance, and due to their height, walkers bang their heads.

What appeal do you want to make to the government?

I would like to appeal to Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar to make Bengaluru a model city, as people with special abilities come to the city for better opportunities. I appeal to him to replicate the Colombo model or that of any other city in Europe and Japan. There are building code guidelines, but they are not followed. We can also share our experiences to make the city better for people with disabilities to move around without obstacles.

What do you have to say about the ill-treatment of people with disabilities?

I get a lot of reports of ill-treatment that people with disabilities face. They face harassment from their own families, in colleges and companies. I always tell them to stay strong and not to give up. We also have ourselves to blame as sometimes we don't raise our voice. Many think that people with disabilities cannot get married or carry out tasks, and don't treat them equally. I appeal to those who are physically, mentally and economically capable of sharing with others and helping them to progress.

How challenging is it for women with disabilities in society?

It is a very big challenge. Sometimes they are looked down on, and treated worse than animals. Their condition is deplorable. At Samarthanam, we have programmes for women with disabilities. We provide hostel facility for working women with disabilities. Our team focuses on their security and safety.

What do you have to say about non-visible disabilities?

There are many other forms of disabilities that are non-physical, which the government should address. Issues of slow learners, ADHD, dyslexia and intellectually challenged people should be looked into. There should also be counselling and a good support system.

Borewells to be dug across BBMP limits at ₹131 cr

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

FOLLOWING complaints of irregular water supply and failure of borewells in Bengaluru, Additional Chief Secretary Rakesh Singh held a coordination committee meeting with the officials of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) here on Saturday. He directed officials to tackle the water scarcity issue.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath said the Palike will drill borewells with Rs 131 crore allocated to solve the problem. He said, "All zonal commissioners have been told to send reports on areas facing water crisis under their zones. Once the reports are submitted along with the grant required, we will sanction it immediately."

Girinath told the media, "Rs 131 crore has been allocated to drill borewells in Mahadevapura, RR Nagar, Bommanahalli,



With increasing complaints of water supply issues in BBMP limits, BWSSB supplies drinking water in tankers to residents in Bengaluru on Saturday | VINOD KUMAR.T

li, Dasarahalli and Yelahanka zones (including 110 villages). Borewells will be dug wherever necessary."

According to BBMP, 58 areas are facing water issues, and officials have been told to complete the tender process

to drill borewells. BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasad Manohar said that of the 10,955 borewells in the city, 1,214 have dried, while water level has gone down in 3,700 such wells. Action is being taken to identify borewells

BJP to discuss drinking water crisis in Council

Bengaluru: BJP MLC and Opposition Chief Whip in the Legislative Council N Ravi Kumar on Saturday said they will discuss the drinking water and power crisis in the state in the Council on Monday. Speaking to reporters on Saturday, the BJP leader said the state government failed to take drought relief measures to provide drinking water to people. Many parts of Bengaluru are facing water scarcity and people are depending on private tankers for water, instead of getting a tanker for Rs 500, they are paying Rs 2,500 to Rs 3,000 per tanker, he said. The government, however, is not paying attention, he said. It should take immediate measures to provide relief to people suffering due to water shortage in Bengaluru and other parts of the state, he said. Ravi Kumar said farmers are in distress due to severe drought, but the government has washed its hands off by just paying Rs 2,000 compensation. He added that the state government has given cabinet minister rank to 84 persons, including ministers. Questioning the need for giving cabinet rank to so many people, the BJP leader said the move means additional expenses of over Rs 5 lakh per month.

that can be repaired and drilled, he said.

BWSSB has identified 257 areas, most of them in the 110 villages, where the water problem is acute. The Board is using its 86 tankers and also 200 private tankers to supply water to them. In areas like RR Nagar, temporary water tanks have

been placed at prominent places to supply water. Such tanks will be placed in other areas too, he added. BWSSB has given 40,000 tap connections and once the Cauvery 5th Stage starts pumping water in April, many areas that are facing water shortage will get water, a BWSSB official said.

IISc Open Day wows science, tech fanatics

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

LARGE crowds of science and technology enthusiasts and school students flocked the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Open Day 2024 to witness the marvels of chemicals and the wonders of technology on Saturday. Hundreds of students from various departments showcased their research projects, and over 40 departments displayed their research and experiments. Research projects like photo-detector laser security system and drone-based projects

garnered public attention. The event was a space for participants to explore experimental demos, participate in quiz contests, engage in scientific competitions, and explore exhibitions at the Institution.

The 'Photo-detector Laser Security System,' with its innovative demonstration attracted bustling groups of students. The setup, featuring a laser system designed for outdoor home security, intrigued visitors with its ability to track visitors and their duration of stay. Adding a unique twist, chocolates served as a clever entry point, inviting children to interact by touching key spots on the security system. This interactive approach effectively illus-

trated how the system detects movement with distinct detecting sounds. The project was developed by Sadanand who is pursuing a PhD in Materials Research Centre at the institution.

The Open Day also featured drone experiments by the Department of Aerospace Engineering where the department highlighted Ubix Automatica as a standout project. This drone initiative focused on crowd management among airborne drones and on the ground by identifying vehicles and forecasting their movements.

An agricultural drone project showcased precision-oriented applications for plantations like coffee and tea. With a range extending up to 500 metres, the drone features powerful equipments and intelligent solutions. This initiative aims to equip agricultural operators with convenient and efficient tools. A redesigned solid rocket booster featuring an altered nozzle shape, enhancing fuel delivery to achieve greater reach and increased thrust was displayed by SpaceFields. The solid rocket propulsion system is aimed at aerospace defense and space transportation with suborbital, orbital, and tactical applications, along with Pyro systems integration.

EXPRESS READ

BMTC announces two new bus routes from Feb 26

Bengaluru: For the benefit of commuters, BMTC is all set to introduce two new routes - 500 CS and 505 from February 26. Route 500 CS will operate from Sarjapur to Central Silk Board via Dommasandra, Kodati Gate, Kaikodrahalli, Ibbalur Junction and Agara; and route 505 will operate from Hosaroad to Varthur Kodikodrahalli, Kasavanahalli, Doddakannalli, Krupinidhi College, Gunjur and Varthur. It will operate 12 trips on the 500 CS route and 14 on route 505.



Symposium lays stress on importance of biobanking

Bengaluru: The Biobank India Foundation (BBIF) and Human Brain Tissue repository (Brain Bank), Department of Neuropathology, Nimhans jointly hosted the 'International Biobanking Symposium 2024', which concluded on Saturday. The two-day symposium had several national and international faculty from biobanks all over the world. The symposium had the first Dr SK Shankar oration delivered by Dr Daniel Catchpole, former president of ISBER, a global biobanking organisation and Australasian Biospecimen Network Association (ABNA). The symposium brought together experts in the field of biobanking to discuss the status of biobanks in the country; critical issues at hand and the future of biobanking including policy planning. The BBIF is a not-for-profit Indian biobank organization for promoting biobank science in the country.

COSMETIC SURGERY NOT QUICK-FIX SOLUTION, SAY HEALTH EXPERTS

Risks include infections, scarring, complications from anaesthesia

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

THE recent death of a 28-year-old man from Hyderabad during a cosmetic dental procedure, to improve his smile before his wedding, owing to an alleged overdose of anaesthesia, underscores the importance of thoroughly weighing the potential risks and benefits before undergoing such surgeries. While typically considered safe with minimal side-effects, it is crucial to recognize that cosmetic surgery is not a quick-fix solution. It entails serious medical procedures with risks and potential complications, say health experts.



Dr Shireen Furtado, senior consultant, Medical and Cosmetic Dermatology, Aster CMI Hospital, said that cosmetic surgery promises enhancement of appearance and boosts self-esteem, potentially correcting

physical abnormalities and counteracting the effects of aging. Procedures like breast augmentation or liposuction can also improve body proportions and symmetry.

However, it is essential to weigh these benefits against the risks involved. She explained that risks include infection, scarring, and complications from anaesthesia. Moreover, the financial burden can be significant, as cosmetic surgeries are often costly and not covered by insurance, while recovery time and discomfort can temporarily disrupt daily activities and lifestyle. Therefore, it is crucial to thoroughly understand the pros and cons, as well as necessary precautions, before undergoing cosmetic surgery.

Dr Shireen added that it is crucial to select a qualified surgeon who is board-certified and experienced. Setting realistic expectations and discussing

goals with the surgeon is important to know if it is achievable. Moreover, understanding the recovery process is vital for a smooth post-operative experience, following the surgeon's instructions regarding medication schedules, wound care and activity restrictions.

Dr Anand K, chief consultant, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Sparsh Hospital said, "There has been a surge in the demand for cosmetic procedures like rhinoplasty, lip augmentation and facial contouring. However, it is crucial to recognize that cosmetic surgery is not a quick-fix solution."

Further, Dr Anand explained that the decision to undergo cosmetic surgery should be carefully considered with emphasis on health, safety and realistic outcomes. Consultation must ensure that the chosen interventions align with the individual's desires, while prioritizing their overall well-being.



SWEEPING VICTORY

Sobhana Asha and her teammates from Royal Challengers Bangalore celebrate the fall of a wicket, during their match against UP Warriorz during the TATA Women's Premier League match at Chinnaswamy Stadium, in Bengaluru.

RCB won by two runs | VINOD KUMAR T

Rowdy murdered in Anekal

Bengaluru: A rowdy shooter who tried to threaten an individual, who was witness against him in an assault case was murdered by the latter and his friend. The incident occurred at Weavers Colony in Anekal on the outskirts of the city on Friday night. The victim identified as Manjunath alias Mental Manja, was a rowdy shooter with over eight criminal cases against him. He has been reportedly stabbed to death by Tattoo Vijji and Shashikumar. Of the two accused Vijji was the prime witness in an assault case that was registered against Manjunath in one of the police stations in Bengaluru rural. On Friday, Manjunath called Vijji and warned him not to appear before the court as a witness. When Vijji refused, the two had an argument, following which Manjunath and his associates went to Vijji's house to warn him. In the melee, the gang attacked Vijji and Shashikumar rushed to his help. Vijji and Shashikumar retaliated and stabbed Manjunath to death with a knife. The victim's associates fled from the spot. The police rushed to the spot and shifted Manjunath to the Anekal Government Hospital but he died enroute to the hospital.

Two from Bengal attacked, robbed by gang in Varthur

PRAVEEN KUMAR @ Bengaluru

A 22-year-old labour contractor and his friend from West Bengal were attacked and robbed by a gang of nine unidentified miscreants in the Varthur area, recently.

The victims are Buddadeb Sardar, 22, and his friend Sujith Sardar, 20, both hailing from Nadia district in West Bengal.

The victims were returning home in the night when the accused on three two-wheelers came from behind and stopped them. The gang surrounded them and demanded money. When the duo refused, the accused attacked them with blunt weapons and also dragged them on the road for some distance. After robbing the two of their cash and mobile phones, the accused escaped. The victims sustained abrasions all over their bodies as they were dragged on the tar road. The Varthur police have registered a case.

Buddadeb and Sujith came to Bengaluru two months back and were staying in Siddapura. The incident happened between 6.30 pm and 6.45 pm near Vibgyor School in Thubarahalli. Passersby, who witnessed the robbery, are said to have run away from the spot without helping the victims.

"We were returning to our room on a cycle after work. The accused who came on three two-wheelers and an auto, stopped us and demanded money. After we refused to give, they attacked us with wooden logs. When we fell on the road, they started dragging us. They then took two

mobile phones from us along with Rs 1,000 cash and escaped," Buddadeb told TNSE.

"When we were being attacked, those staying there and passersby started running fearing that they would also be robbed. The accused were speaking in Kannada and we have not seen them before. We were unable to note down the vehicle numbers. We were hospitalised for a day and are still under treatment," Buddadeb added.



The Varthur police have registered a case of causing hurt in committing robbery (IPC 394) against the accused.

"We have managed to get pictures of suspects from CCTV cameras in the vicinity. The victims are not identifying any of the suspects. After the robbery, the victims went to a hospital for treatment. The hospital, after registering a medico-legal case, informed us. We have recorded the statements of the victims. The accused are yet to be arrested," said the police.

TRAFFIC ADVISORY FOR CONSTITUTION DAY EVENT

Buses to turn right at Windsor Manor Junction, proceed via BDA, Ramana Maharshi Rd, PG Halli Bus Stand, Kaveri Junction, Mehkri Circle Rd and Mehkri Circle

Vehicles from Ballari Road/ Hebbal to turn left at Mehkri Circle, continue on Jayamahal Road

Buses and vehicles from Yeswanthpur to divert towards Sir CV Raman Road, BHEL Circle, Sadashivanagar PS Junction, Mehkri Circle, Jayamahal Road

Buses from Cantonment Railway Station to take Jayamahal Road; other vehicles will take Jayamahal Road, turn left at TV Tower Junction, and proceed through Mehkri Circle Service Road

Attendees arriving by four-wheelers and two-wheelers will follow the route via Windsor Manor Junction, BDA upper ramp, Ramana Maharshi Road, PG Halli Bus Stand, Kaveri Junction, Mehkri Circle Service Road, and turn right at Mehkri Circle

Those arriving from Ballari Road or Hebbal to use Mehkri Circle underpass

Bengaluru Traffic Police has issued traffic diversions to regulate traffic on Ballari Road, Jayamahal Road and areas surrounding Palace Grounds for the Constitution Awareness programme on Sunday (February 25) commemorating the 75th anniversary of India's adoption of the Constitution. Approximately 1 lakh people are expected to participate in the event. Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) are strictly prohibited from entering the city from 7am-12noon and 3pm-10pm.

PARK HERE

Enter Gate 2 of Tripurasini Palace Ground to park. All vehicles will exit through Tripurasini Exit Gate, proceed on Jayamahal Road towards Cantonment

Park at Circus Grounds near TV Tower. Exiting vehicles will leave Circus Grounds, take Jayamahal Road, and exit via Mehkri Circle

NO PARKING ZONES

Palace Rd; MV Jayaram Rd; Vasanthnagar Rd; Jayamahal Rd; CV Raman Rd; Ballari Rd; Ramana Maharshi Rd; Nandidurga Rd; Tharalabalu Rd; Mount Carmel College Rd; Mehkri Circle towards Ypr

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

- **Palace Road:** From Mysore Bank Circle to Vasanthanagar underpass
- **MV Jayaram Road:** From Palace Road BDA Junction to Chakravarti Layout till Old Udaya TV Junction
- **Ballari Road:** From LRDE junction to Hebbal
- **Cunningham Road:** From Balekundri Circle to Le Meridian underpass
- **Millers Road:** From Old Udaya TV Junction to LRDE Junction
- **Jayamahal Road:** Jayamahal Road and Bengaluru Palace surrounding roads
- **Yeshwanthpur and Mehkri Circle Road:** From Yeshwanthpur to IISc to Mehkri Circle

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AE/22-23/EPR-03 Dtd: 23.02.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka public procurement portal only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry no: KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AE/22-23/EPR-17 Dtd: 15.06.2022, KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AE/22-23/EPR-03 Dtd: 11.04.2022, KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AE/21-22/EPR-33 Dtd: 08.03.2022 & KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AE/23-24/EPR-04 Dtd: 25.08.2023 for the work for "Providing intermediate towers & replacement of towers to increase vertical clearance of existing 220kV & 66kV lines at various hazardous locations pertaining to TLM sub-division, KPTCL, Rajajinagar in TL&SS Division, SRS Peenya in different packages." coming under jurisdiction of BMAZ North Circle, Bangalore.

The Detailed Notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on or after 25.02.2024 to <https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in> with hyper Link 'E-Procurement KPTCL' or to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-, Superintending Engineer, Elec., Transmission (Maintenance), BMAZ North Circle, Ground Floor, KPTCL Office Complex, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009.

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ
ಹಾ. ವಿ.ಆರ್. ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಆರ್.ಎಲ್. ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಆಡಳಿತ
E-mail: ulb_hebbagodi@yahoo.com website: www.hebbagodicity.mrc.gov.in
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಹೆ.ಸ.ಸ/ತಾ.ಹಾ.ಬಿ.ನೋ/ಒ.ಆರ್./9/2023-24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23/02/2024

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ - ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ
ಅನ್ವಯದ ಹಾಗೂ ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಬಿಡರ್
ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2023-24ನೇ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ ಮತ್ತು 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ನಿಧಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅನ್ವಯದ ಹಾಗೂ ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಬಿಡರ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಮರು ಬಿಡರ್ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 57 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು, ರೂ.ಮೊತ್ತ 933.67 ಲಕ್ಷ (ಕನ್ನಡ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.2.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 50.00ಲಕ್ಷ)ಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ 2000 ಹಾಗೂ ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ.-1, 2 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಗಳಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರೋಕೋಪರೇಟಿವ್ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ/ಕರಬದಾಯಿದಾರರಿಂದ ಅನ್ವಯದ ಹಾಗೂ ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಬಿಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.02.2024 ರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಬಿಡರ್ ನಿಯಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಮಯ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಂತೆ, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ www.hebbagodicity.mrc.gov.in or <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ನಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹ/- (ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ ಎ ದಯಾನಂದ I.A.S) (ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ.ನರಸಿಂಹಮೂರ್ತಿ K.M.A.S) ಅಧಿಕಾರವಾಹಿ, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ ಹೊರಾಯಕ್ರಮ, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ.
ವಾ.ನಂ/ದಾ.ಸಂ/3865 (ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್)2023-24

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. SEE/EE/Tr(W&M)/VG/AEE-1F-114/23-24(Cys-102 Date: 23.02.2024
TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP Mode Only)

E-Tenders are invited in the prescribed form from reputed **Electrical Contractor possessing Super Grade Electrical Contractor License** for the following works in Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Davanagere on Partial Turnkey Basis.

(1) **Bid Enquiry No:** KPTCL/SEE/W&M/DVG/EE/AEE-1/23-24/938/Call-3 Dated: 21.02.2024 for Providing additional 1x12.5MVA, 66/11kv power transformer at 66/11KV Kurubarahalli sub-station in Harihara taluk, Davanagere district.

(2) **Bid Enquiry No:** KPTCL/SEE/W&M/DVG/EE/AEE-1/23-24/20 Dated: 25.01.2024 for erection of 01 No. of idle MCVCB breaker for NJY feeder at 66/11KV MUSS Guttur.

Tenders will be accepted through KPPP Mode only. For further details, prospective Bidders are advised to log on to website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> or <https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in> & click on to hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" to participate in e-procurement portal on or after 26.02.2024.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele), Tr. (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Near Stadium, Hadadi Road, Davanagere. Ph: 08192-250774.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-TENDER NOTICE
Tender No : SE/PHC/MPM/335/2023-24
Jal Jeevan Mission Malappuram District - Road Restoration work in AR NAGAR Panchayath. EMD: Rs. 2,00,000; Tender fee: Rs. 11025; Last Date for submitting Tender: 07-03-2024, 03:00:pm. Phone : 0483 2974871
Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer
PH Circle, Malappuram

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
VJAYANAGAR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, BALLARI.
Cantonment Area, Director:8147796529, PA: 8147796539, e-mail : vimsballaridirector@karnataka.gov.in , e-mail : directorvimsballari@gmail.com website: www.vims.karnataka.gov.in
NO. VIMS/SUP/TENDER/15/2023-24 DATE:21.02.2024
RE-TENDERNOTIFICATION
Tenders are invited from providing Man Power Services (160 No's) of Data Entry Operators for VIMS, Ballari Combined Group of College & Hospitals for 2023-24 VIMS, Ballari under Two bid system through e-procurement portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> of Government of Karnataka as per the KPPP Act-1999-2000. The interested bidders are request to submit Tender in above said e-portal on or before 29/02/2024 up to 5.00 PM. The total approximate cost of tender is Rs.199.00 Lakhs. Further details may be obtained in the above said website and www.vims.karnataka.gov.in.
Sd/- Dean & Director, VIMS, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/903/KSMCA/2023-24

Union Bank of India ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH
2/3, Raja Building, N.R Road, Bengaluru -560 002. E-mail : ubin0555991@unionbankofindia.bank
Contact No: 8369255990, 080-29570555

APPENDIX-IV-A
[See Proviso to Rule 8(6) of Security Enforcement Rules, 2002]
Notice of 30 days for sale of immovable secured assets under Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with the provision of Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) mentioned below that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch, Bengaluru concerned branches. Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "whatever there is" basis, by Public E-Auction on 28.03.2024 from 11.00 A.M to 4.00 P.M for recovery of dues as mentioned below together with future interest and legal other expenses due to the bank/Secured Creditor from respective borrowers. The Reserve Price for Property, the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Description of Property etc., are given below.

Sl. No.	Name and Address of the Borrower/Mortgagor/ Guarantor	Description of immovable secured assets	Amount Due	Reserve Price	EMD Amount
1)	Mr. Srinivas N S/o Narayanappa No.125, 2nd Main Road, Chikka Adugodi, Jayanagar, Thavarekere Main Road Near Dharmaram College, Bangalore-560029. Also at: Site No.15, 20th B Main Road, Venkateshwara Layout, BTM 1st stage Bangalore-560068. 2) Mrs. Sarojamma W/o Srinivas No.125, 2nd Main Road, Chikka Adugodi, Jayanagar, Thavarekere Main Road Near Dharmaram College, Bangalore-560029. 3) Mr. Nagaraj S S/o Srinivas No.125, 2nd Main Road, Chikka Adugodi, Jayanagar, Thavarekere Main Road, Near Dharmaram College, Bangalore-560029.	All that piece and parcel of immovable residential House property bearing No.15, (Old No.1,2,3 & 4), (In Survey No.9, Madival Village, Bangalore), Venkateshwara Layout, 20th B Main Road, Maruthinagar (BTM 1st stage), Madival Bangalore 560068, with built up area measuring 350 Square with all amenities within the BBMP jurisdiction ward no 65, (Old Division No 58), BTM Layout, Bangalore with PID No.65-33-15, Measuring East to West 20 Feet, North to South 31 Feet, bounded on : East by: Private Property, West: Road, North: Site No.14, South: Site No.16.	Rs. 90,82,426.47 (Rupees Ninety Lakhs Eighty-Two Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty-Six and Forty-Seven Paise Only) as on 31.01.2024	Rs.69,94,000 (Rupees Sixty-Nine Lakhs Ninety-Four Thousand Only)	Rs. 6,99,400 (Rupees Six Lakhs Ninety-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Only)

The above said properties will be sold by "Online". Online E-Auction will be held through web portal/website www.mstccommerce.com on the date and time mentioned above with unlimited extension of 10 minutes. The intending bidders / purchasers required to register through <https://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/libapi/index.jsp> by using their mobile number and valid email id. They are further required to upload KYC documents and Bank Details. The intended bidder may contact the Branch Manager of Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch, Bengaluru Contact No. 8369255990, 080-29570555 for inspection of property and also visit the above mentioned website for ascertaining the details of auction.

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER Rule 8(6) Rule 9(1) OF STATUTORY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002
This may also be treated as notice u/s 8(6) Rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the Borrowers and Guarantors of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date.

Place: Bengaluru Date : 24.02.2024

Sd/- Authorised Officer Union Bank of India.

TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Regd. Office: 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganapatrika Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400013.
CIN No. U67190MH2008PLC187552
Branch Address: No 82/1, Ground Floor, Krishna Towers, Bangalore 560025. Mob: 9900880727

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)
(As per Rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the TATA Capital Housing Finance Limited, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice, calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrower, having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, in particular and the public, in general, that as per the order of Hon'ble 30th Addl CMM Court at Bangalore dated 02/01/2024, passed in Cri. Misc.No.6696/2023, the Advocate Commissioner has taken Physical Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him and handed over the physical possession to the undersigned Authorised Officer of Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited on 23rd Feb 2024. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower, in particular, and the public in general, is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited, for an amount referred to below along with interest thereon and penal interest, charges, costs etc. from the date of demand notice.

Loan Account No.	Name of Obligor(s)/ Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s)	Amount & Date of Demand Notice	Date of Physical Possession
TCHHF 0493000100072169 & TCHHF 049300010006837	Mr. G Anil Kumar, (Borrower) and Mrs. Manjula C, (Co Borrower)	Due as on 23 rd May 2023 Rs.9702477/-	23rd Feb, 2023

Description of Secured Assets/Immovable Properties : Schedule 'A' Property All that the piece and parcel of immovable property bearing site No.17/3 and 17/4 formed out of land bearing Sy.No.17/3, & 17/4 situated at Puttenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, duly converted for non agricultural residential purpose vide order No.B.DIS.ALN.SR(S)/2002-03, dated 23/11/2002, issued by the special deputy commissioner Bangalore District, Bangalore, in residential layout coming under the limits of Bommanahalli CHC, bearing Khata No.5601773 & Khata No.711/560, totally measuring 31,842 Square Feet, undivided land out of 1 Acre 03 Guntas, and Bounded on :- East By : Private Property, West By : Remaining Portion of the same property, North By : Road, South By : Gunasheela's Property, Schedule 'B' Property, An undivided share land measuring 727 Square Feet out of Schedule 'A' Property, Schedule 'C' Property, All that piece and parcel of Flat No.406, on the Third Floor, multi - Storied Residential Apartment Building complex by name 'Mahaveer Woods Apartment', 2nd Main Road, J.P Nagar V Phase, Bangalore 560 078, constructed in the Schedule 'A' Property bearing Sy.No.17/3 and 17/4 situated at Puttenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, bearing Bommanahalli CHC Khata No.5601773, 17/4, Presently bearing Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike Khata No.711/560, measuring about 1665 Square Feet, super built up Area 1265 Square Feet, RCC Roof, with Mosaic Flooring, Cement and Brick Walls, Honne Wood doors and steel Windows, with all Civic amenities, consisting of Hall, 3 bed rooms, Kitchen and toilets with Balconies and Common area, Satire case lift etc., with one Car Parking slot in the Basement.

Date: 23rd Feb 2024 Place: Bangalore

For Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited Sd/- Authorised Officer

UNION BANK OF INDIA ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH
#2/3, Raja Building, N.R. Road, Bangalore-560002, E-mail:ubin0555991@unionbankofindia.bank

NOTICE TO THE BORROWER INFORMING ABOUT SALE (30 DAYS NOTICE) RULE 6 (2) (B) (6) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.

1. **M/s Delta Dynamix Pvt Ltd**, No.38/1-24, 2nd floor, near Sobha Garnet, opp. Iblur Park Gate, Iblur Village, Begur, Hobli, Bangalore -560102. 2. **Joseph M E S/o C A Escader**, #121/B, Flat No.302 7th Cross, 13th Main, 5th Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore -560102. Also at: Maria Villa, MDRA 127 Kamblivikkam behind Skyline Habitat, Kakkana, Emakulam 682030 Kerala. 3. **Vipin Kumar Jain** S/o Kallash Chand Jain, No.705, Block 15, Suncity Apts. Iblur, Bangalore-560102. 4. **Mr.Radheshyam Gupta** S/o Ramashankar Prasad Gupta H-93, 3rd floor, J&K Block Laxmi Nagar 110092 Delhi. 5. **Mrs. Anita Miriam Joseph** W/o Mark Anu, #3A, TCR Garden, homes, 1 Playground Street, Kippak, Chennai-600010 Tamil Nadu. 6. **Mrs. Agnes Bijl Joseph** W/o Joseph M E, # 121/B, Flat no.302 7th cross, 13th main 5th sector HSR layout Bangalore 560102.

Sale of property belonging to **Mr. Joseph M.E (M/s.Delta Dynamix Private Limited)** for realization of amount due to Bank under the SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002
Union Bank of India, ARB, #2/3, Raja Building, N.R. Road, Bangalore-560002, E-mail:ubin0555991@unionbankofindia.bank, the secured creditor, caused a demand notice dated 10.03.2023 under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, calling upon you to pay the dues within the time stipulated therein. Since you failed to comply the said notice within the period stipulated, the Authorised Officer, has taken possession of the immovable secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 6(8) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on 16.09.2023.

Even after taking possession of the secured assets, you have not paid the amount due to bank. As such, it has become necessary to sell the below mentioned property by holding public e-auction after 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice through online mode. The date and time of e-auction along with the Reserve Price of the property and the details of the service provided, in which the e-auction to be conducted, shall be informed to you separately. Therefore, if you pay the amount due to the bank along with subsequent interest, costs, charges and expenses incurred by bank before the date of publication of sale notice, no further action shall be taken for sale of the property and you can redeem your property as stipulated in sec. 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of the property Door no. 12/962-A of Thrikakara Municipality having plinth area of 1000sq.ft. in Ground Floor and 680 sq. ft. in the first floor, in land admeasuring 2.049 Acres in Re. Sy. No. 47/5 in Block no. 9/old Sy. No. 119/1-5 and 119/2, with House Name "MARIA VILLA", Plot no MDRA 127, Thrikakara Grampanchayat, "Kambiveli Kagan", Behind Skyline Habitat, Pappali Road, Vazhakkala, Kakkana, Emakulam District - Pincode - 682036 property owned by Joseph M.E., bounded on East by: 9 Links Wide Private Road, West by: Property of Madaparambil George Tharakan in Re. Sy. No. 47/4, North by: Property of Roy Jacob & Varghese, South By: 18 Links Wide Private Road Leading to 20 Links wide municipal Road.

Date : 02.02.2024 Place : Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer Union Bank of India.

Ministers tipped for LS polls skipped DKS' dinner?

ENS @ Bengaluru

EVEN as Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has been reportedly insisting that a few ministers should contest the Lok Sabha polls, many of them skipped the dinner meeting hosted by him on Friday evening. A few others who attended, however, expressed that they cannot switch to national politics and instead wished that the Congress ticket be given to their children.

Prominent among the ministers who skipped the occasion was Social Welfare Minister Dr HC Mahadevappa, to whom both Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar have insisted on contesting from the Chamara Nagar Lok Sabha seat. Replying to them recently, Mahadevappa had sarcastically said that "both the CM and DCM should contest the LS polls, with especially the latter deserving the opportunity the most".

PWD Minister Satish Jarkholi, whose name was making the rounds as a probable candidate for the Belagavi seat, also gave the dinner a miss. Ministers KN Rajanna, Byrati Suresh, Santhosh Lad, and Sharanabasappa Darshanapur were among the absentees, according to sources. But Shivakumar's supporters maintained that a majority of the ministers attended the programme, and those who had skipped had informed him in advance, owing to pre-scheduled engagements.

With the ministers who took part, both the CM and DCM discussed individually about the respective LS constituencies and the probable candidates. The two want to win 20 out of the 28 seats to prove their mettle and continue in their posts, even after the Lok Sabha polls, a Congress leader remarked.

Former Union minister Divvijaya Singh and Congress RS candidate Ajay Maken also attended the dinner meeting. "We discussed the Lok Sabha polls and the necessity of the list of candidates to be announced at the earliest. The screening committee held a round of talks on the shortlist of candidates, and after holding another meeting, the final list will go to the Central Election Committee (CEC)," Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara said.



Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar speaks at a convention of beneficiaries of the state government's guarantees in Shivamogga on Saturday | EXPRESS

DKS: Will pass amended Endowment Act in 3 months

MARX TEJASWI @ Shivamogga

DEPUTY Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has said that the Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowment (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which was defeated by the BJP-JDS in the Legislative Council, will be passed after three months when the Congress gains a majority in the Upper House.

He was addressing a gathering after inaugurating a convention of beneficiaries of the State Government's five guarantees, organised by the district administration and zilla panchayat, in Shivamogga on Saturday.

Shivakumar said that through the influence of the priests (archakas), devotees find Shiva even in a stone. "We introduced a Bill (Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowment (Amendment) Bill, 2024). The government, through this legislation, wanted to allocate 10% of the income from charity from large temples to pay salaries to priests, provide insurance coverage, and assistance for their

'BJP-JDS will pay for opposing guarantees'

CM alleges NDA has copied his government's guarantees and renamed it 'Modi guarantee'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Banavara (Hassan district)

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday hit out at the BJP-JDS combine for opposing the State Government's five guarantees and said that the people of the state will teach them a lesson in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Addressing a gathering in Banavara, the CM said that JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda has forgotten about secularism and has joined hands with communal forces.

He said the result of the recent teachers' constituency election has proved that the

BJP-JDS alliance cannot defeat Congress candidates in the LS polls.

He said the NDA has copied his government's guarantees and renamed it as the "Modi guarantee" at the Centre. "The BJP did not introduce any guarantees when in power in Karnataka. People had rejected BJP in last year's Assembly polls as they indulged in 40% commission," he said.

He also took potshots at Gowda, who hails from Hassan district. "Unfortunately, the so-called son of the soil has completely

failed to protect the interests of the farmers and poor in the state. HD Kumaraswamy strongly opposes the Yettinahole drinking water project to provide water to parched areas like Arsikere. The BJP leaders have completely failed to get grants from the Centre promised for various projects earlier. The Centre has cheated the 6.65 crore Kannadigas by not releasing the state's share of GST," the CM added. The CM reiterated that development has not been hampered due to the guarantee schemes.



Pay proper compensation while buying agri land: Medha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

Social activist Medha Patkar on Saturday said, "We are expecting something different from the present government in Karnataka. It should not acquire agricultural land which may be for beautifying the city or for the housing projects without implementing the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement Act, 2013, which came into force on January 1, 2014."

Speaking at the Constitution and National Unity Convention 2024, organised by the state government in the city, Patkar, who chaired the discussion on the theme, "Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles and Citizenship", pointed out that such acquisitions are leading to water crisis and deforestation.

Reiterating that agricultural land should not be acquired even for regular development without implementing the 2013 Act, she said 29 labour laws were repealed by the cen-



Schoolkids at a stall during the inaugural session of the Constitution and National Unity Convention 2024, in Bengaluru on Saturday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

tral government, but three anti-farmer laws are yet to be scrapped.

The central government is playing a game by not releasing funds as well as food grains/rice to Karnataka, which is another way of targeting weaker sections, she added.

Earlier, former IAS officer Harsh Mander said India is passing through a profound civilisational crisis which is the gravest threat to Indian constitutional moralities. The

minorities have been targeted in UP and their houses demolished, throwing the Constitution to the wind, he added.

Senior journalist Siddharth Varadarajan, one of the panelists, pointed out how force is being used against protesting farmers in New Delhi, attacking the freedom of expression and freedom of assembly.

Varadarajan took exception to the alleged internet ban during such protests.

Special cover on Constitution Awareness Campaign 2024

BENGALURU: On the occasion of the Constitution Awareness Campaign 2024, a special cover was released on Saturday by Rajendra Kumar S, Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Postal Circle, and handed over to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah here on Saturday. A special cancellation on the 'Constitution & National Unity Convention' was also released on the occasion. The special cover and special cancellation will be available for sale at all philatelic bureaus (Bengaluru GPO, Mangaluru HO, Mysuru HO and Belagavi HO) in Karnataka Circle. Also, to commemorate the 75th year of commitment to the values and spirit of the constitutional ideals of India, the state government organised a conference titled, "The Constitution and Unity of India". **ENS**

Malicious campaign against me sponsored, says Karandlaje

ENS @ Chikkamagaluru

Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Shobha Karandlaje described the 'Go back, Shobha!' slogan campaign as a sponsored effort, and attributed it to opportunists.

Shobha, who is in the ticket race for a third term from Udupi-Chikkamagaluru constituency, told reporters here on Saturday, "When development works in my constituency are visible, the electorate will surely support me."

In a retort to rumour mongers, she said, "These things are common in politics, and I know how to face them. One should not seek a ticket by assassinating the character of others, insulting and engaging in malicious propaganda."

Loyal party workers do not stoop this low and indulge in character assassination."

Her words were directed at the Opposition. "If they are real party workers, let them come and have an open debate with me about development works undertaken in Udupi-Chikkamagaluru constituency during my tenure," she said.

Another BJP ticket aspirant, Pramod Madhwaraj, claimed he was a strong contender for the BJP ticket from Udupi-Chikkamagaluru constituency. He told the media on Saturday, "I am the frontrunner in the survey conducted and have sought the ticket, assessing my eligibility. I have elicited the opinion of party workers."

Responding to Shobha's assertion of her claim to contest from the constituency, he said

he had no belief in the malicious campaign against Shobha. "Shobha has the right to seek a ticket. As a common worker, I also have the right. Ultimately, the Central Parliamentary Board will decide. Whichever candidate is given the ticket, I will work in favour of that person," he said.

Madhwaraj said former BJP MP late D C Srikanthappa is his role model because party workers and people remember him for his contribution to the constituency.

"The Chikkamagaluru City Municipal Council has given approval for constructing Srikanthappa's statue and memorial at any circle. I will take up construction work at my own expense. Work will start after the CMC specifies the location," he said.

Post Ram Mandir, land prices around Anjanadri Hill soar

AMIT S UPADHYE @ Koppal

WITH plans to turn Anjanadri Hill, the birthplace of Lord Hanuman, into a mega religious tourism destination, land prices here have shot up. Even before Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced Rs 100 crore for the development of the hill shrine and surroundings, real estate in this little village on the banks of Tungabhadra river had started skyrocketing.

Besides the state govern-

ment, the central government too has shown interest in developing the hill into a religious destination. When UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited the shrine, he had proposed a direct train link between Anjanadri and Ayodhya. The local trust which manages the shrine also has plans to develop the area on the lines of Ayodhya.

These activities are expected to bring in large-scale development and employment opportu-



nities. Sensing this, many landowners have raised the prices by up to 70%, local residents said.

A local businessman said that an acre of land was available in Aneundi village for Rs 12 lakh

The BJP demanded CM Siddaramaiah to hand over the probe into graft allegations against him to the CBI. A Special Court rejected a closure report by the Lokayukta police in a case against the CM, and directed them to continue the probe

Session turns forum to set LS poll agenda



A sense of animosity between the ruling and opposition parties peaked in the ongoing budget session of the Karnataka legislature. Each side appeared to be more keen on strengthening its Lok Sabha poll pitch.

The stormy session, which is likely to conclude on Monday, has witnessed the Congress government's no-holds-barred attacks against the Union Government over the alleged disparity in the devolution of taxes being taken to an unprecedented level. It was also marked by acerbic exchanges between the senior leaders from the ruling and opposition parties, and faux pas that landed the government in an embarrassing situation.

The Congress Government — that was accused of using the Governor's address to the joint sitting of the State Legislature, the government's response to the debate on the Governor's address, and the budget speech to launch a scathing attack against the Centre — went on to pass a resolution in the State Legislative Assembly against Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union government.

The aggressive move, bordering on a confrontational attitude, showed all the signs of the Congress versus BJP fight ahead of the Lok Sabha polls escalating into a tussle between the state and Union governments. This could have wider ramifications on Centre-state relations, well beyond the elections.

Ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, the Congress and its government in the state seem to be working on a clear plan of action and trying to entrench a strong feeling among the people that the Union government has done injustice to them. Politically, it is a shrewd move. Congress probably sees that as one of the major election issues, apart from its guarantee schemes, to persuade voters in an election that is most likely to be centred around the PM and his government's performance.

However, while they continue to fight for what they believe is a just cause, the leaders must be mindful of the tone, aggression, and forums that are used to launch such attacks as that could encourage a sense of hostility among people, although the protagonist may not have any such intentions.

The differences of views and disagreements are healthy signs of democracy and political parties go to any extent to achieve their goals, more so in an election

year. But, a more nuanced approach to drawing a fine distinction between government and political forums, may help the cause better.

On its part, the Centre should look at the issue more holistically and try to take the states that are expressing displeasure over the devolution of taxes into confidence. Not just Karnataka, other southern states, too, have raised the issue of devolution of taxes. For the first time, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his ministers and legislators even staged a protest in the national capital.

In the Legislative Assembly and the Council, despite the best efforts of the Presiding Officers of both the Houses, the proceedings were disrupted. In the Legislative Council, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had to end his speech abruptly after the BJP took objection to his repeated attacks against the Central government. Normally, in the past, members would listen with rapt attention when the CM or a Leader of the Opposition gets up to speak. That is not the case anymore. Both sides showed equal amounts of aggression. While the Siddaramaiah government went full throttle with its accusations against the Centre, the BJP left no opportunity to make its point.

The government was put on the mat by the opposition over its faux pas of excluding private schools from singing the state anthem and altering a slogan at the entrance of some classrooms from "This is a temple of knowledge, enter with folded hands" derived from a Kuvempu's poem to "This is the temple of knowledge, ask without fear."

After the issue of the state anthem rocked the session, the government cited a 'printing mistake' in the Government Order (GO) as an excuse and issued a new order stating that the state anthem must be sung in "all schools".

ALL EYES ON RS POLLS

Meanwhile, all eyes are on Tuesday's Rajya Sabha polls. Five candidates are in the fray for four seats. With 135 members in the assembly, the ruling Congress has the required numbers to get all three candidates; Ajay Maken, GC Chandrashekar, and Syed Naseer Hussain elected. While BJP has enough votes to get its candidate Narayana Bhandage elected, the JDS candidate D Kupendra Reddy needs to get more votes, apart from his party's 19 votes and extra votes allotted to him by the alliance partner BJP. Each candidate requires 45 votes to make it to the upper house.

The RS polls will also put the JDS-BJP alliance to the test again after the by-poll to the legislative council seat earlier this week. The BJP-JDS alliance candidate lost to the Congress candidate in the Teachers Constituency by-polls earlier this week.

EXPRESS READ

Hegde must be sent to mental hospital: Patil

BELAGAVI: Hitting out at Uttara Kannada MP Ananth Kumar Hegde for his statements criticising CM Siddaramaiah, Industries Minister MB Patil on Saturday said the MP should be admitted to a mental hospital. After staying away from people for the last five years, Hegde has surfaced with Lok Sabha polls around the corner. He was not seen anywhere at all so far and he never met his voters as well, said Patil. As elections are nearing, Hegde is issuing communally-charged statements with the aim of contesting the elections, he added. Earlier, as a Union minister, Hegde had stated that the Constitution should be changed.

till a few months ago. "But after the Ayodhya temple opening and developmental activities that have begun in Anjanadri, land owners are demanding Rs 20-25 lakh per acre. Most of Aneundi has rich fertile land and is best suited for agriculture and horticulture," he said.

Panchayat officials said several people from Mumbai and other parts of the country have visited Anjanadri recently checking land prices. "When outsiders start showing interest in

buying large chunks of land, local residents are bound to raise the price. The hill shrine receives thousands of tourists every week from North Indian states," a panchayat member said.

In the first phase of development works, stay facilities for devotees will be built. Larger parking spaces, public toilets, shade points and boundary fencing will be taken up. In the second phase a tall statue of Lord Hanuman and a temple will be constructed.



Farming as we do it is hunting, and in the sea we act like barbarians

Jacques Cousteau

newindianexpress.com

WHY THIS FARM STIR DEMANDS A DIFFERENT APPROACH ON MSP

FARMERS are once again demanding a guarantee on minimum support price (MSP). But the two agitations barely a few years apart are quite different. The main demand of the previous agitation of November 2020 to December 2021 was the withdrawal of three farm laws proposed by the central government; a legal guarantee on MSP was an additional demand. The farmers of Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh were apprehensive that provisions such as government procurement, the mandi system under the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act, and contract farming.

But the farmers of Bihar, where there are no APMC mandis, and of eastern and central Uttar Pradesh, who do not get much benefit from APMC mandis, did not feel connected to the issue of farm laws. Yet every farmer wants to get a better price for his produce and for this the MSP is necessary. Due to this, this farmer movement of 2024 has the possibility of gaining traction across the country.



OPINION

HARVIR SINGH

Editor in Chief
Rural Voice

I got a hint of this when I met about 600 farmers across five states last year. Low crop prices and increasing difficulties for rural families were their common pain. We interacted with farmers and rural citizens in Jodhpur in Rajasthan, Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh, Bhubaneswar in Odisha, Shillong in Meghalaya and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu. They saw the solution in the form of better prices for their crops. Farmers in every corner of the country not only want MSP for their crops, but also its guarantee.

In December 2021, when the farmers returned from the borders of Delhi, Union Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Aggarwal wrote to the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), promising to form a committee to find a solution to the MSP issue. In July 2022, a committee of about 40 members was indeed formed under Aggarwal's chairmanship. But its terms of reference, along with MSP, included topics like the functioning of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, and natural and organic farming. Three SKM representatives were given a place in the committee but the SKM did not join the committee. The committee's report has not come yet, which seems to have proven true the apprehensions of the farmers, who have been calling the committee a formality. The government probably did not realise that the MSP issue was not going to go away.

Farmers' incomes across the country is either very low or is decreasing. In the states with the best crop yields, productivity has become stagnant while the cost of production has increased. We can say that the incremental return on farmers' investment has decreased. Due to division of land holdings over the last four decades, their income has declined and this is adversely affecting their standard of living. Whatever governments may claim, individual expenditure on education and health has increased, while the condition of public facilities in these sectors has deteriorated. Due to the lack of quality education, employment opportunities for farming families in sectors other than agriculture have decreased.

In such a situation, MSP has a universal appeal because it is directly linked to livelihood. Every farmer wants to get rid of the increased uncertainty on production and prices. Here, we should change our perspective and think that India is not a country like New Zealand or Chile, where agriculture is considered a business and a means of earning foreign exchange. We need to feed a huge population and so agricultural production should be seen as a strategic sector for achieving food security. There are 14 crore land holdings in the country and the betterment of the people associated with them should be our priority. We should understand this from a country like the US, which takes every possible step for the betterment of 20 lakh farmers because it does not want to depend on food imports.

Our consumers should also change their mindset. They will have to think that farmers fill their stomachs, and for that, they should get better prices. Instead of consumer-versus-farmer, they should think of the problem when they get potatoes at ₹12 a kg and onions at ₹15.

There is an example for those who consider an MSP guarantee impractical. The central government decides the fair and remunerative price for sugarcane and there is a statutory provision to pay the farmers within 14 days of supplying the cane to the mills. This system has been going on for almost seven decades. Not only this, the government has fixed the MSP for sugar and no mill can sell sugar at a lower price. If this system can work, why can't the MSP guarantee be implemented?

The government can decide the method of guarantee. The central government is in favour of the Bhavantar yojana. NITI Aayog is in favour of this. If a farmer has to sell at a price lower than the MSP, then the government can directly pay the difference to the farmer. This was implemented in Madhya Pradesh during the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government. Instead of why MSP, the government will have to think about how to guarantee MSP.

MSP guarantee is the demand of all farmer unions. If they do not participate in the movement, their credibility will be affected. So, if no solution is found to the current impasse, more farmer organisations may gradually join this agitation. There is also the matter of the elections. It would be better to find a solution now; otherwise the MSP issue will keep coming up again and again.

THE HYPE AND REALITY OF 400 SEATS FOR NDA



POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA

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IF elections were to be decided by mind games, the BJP would have been declared winner already and Narendra Modi would be ensconced in Lok Kalyan Marg again. That is the hype and the hyperbole. But the honest truth is that more than 900 million voters are yet to cast their vote for what will be the 18th Lok Sabha. For Modi though, it seems a foregone conclusion. By declaring that his party and its allies would return to power with more than 400 seats in May, as against 350-odd in the outgoing Lok Sabha, the omnipresent prime minister has dictated the numbers narrative. He has ensured that the entire electoral story revolves around the numbers he gets and not about governance and performance.

Also, by creating hype about the margin of his likely victory, he has made an attempt to demoralise his opponents and enthrone his core constituents. If the BJP wins 370, the Congress would be left with less than half the 54 seats it won to the 17th Lok Sabha. Seemingly assured of a historic third term, Modi has even convened the last meeting of his cabinet early next month. The agenda: to consider the plan for the first 100 days of his next government.

But is his confidence misplaced? A look at the possible mathematical calculations.

Make-or-break states: Maharashtra, Bihar and Karnataka are the most significant states for the ruling party to

not only retain the 303 seats it won to the 17th Lok Sabha, but also to inch towards its incredible target of 370 seats. The BJP and its allies currently have 106 out of a total of 116 seats in these three states.

The outcome of the Lok Sabha elections in Bihar and Maharashtra has acquired significance because of the multiple political twists and turns. In Bihar, in which both JD(U) and the BJP fought together in 2019, the duo swept the polls by winning 39 out of the 40 seats. Then Nitish Kumar broke away from the NDA briefly to form a government with the RJD led by Lalu Prasad, only to return to the BJP fold. It has immensely eroded the credibility of the chief minister and his commitment to the lower castes.

During 2019, while the BJP won all the 17 seats it contested, the JD(U) lost one and won 16. Their other ally LJP also won all the six seats it fought against the Congress and its allies in the state. Now the questions being asked are: can Nitish Kumar deliver the same number of seats? Can the LJP under the leadership of Chirag Paswan deliver a strike rate of 100 percent? The jury is still out. But the BJP is confident of ensuring 100 percent victories. What happens if both the JD(U) and LJP lose a few seats? Pollsters have found an imaginary answer as well. They argue that the BJP has a better strike rate than its allies, so it would compensate for the losses the others may incur. It assumes that the BJP would contest more Lok Sabha seats than it did in 2019. Again it depends on the magnanimity of the chief minister and the budding young Dalit leader Chirag Paswan.



PTI

Similar doubts have been raised in the case of Maharashtra and Karnataka. Both the BJP and the undivided Shiv Sena and their allies won 41 of the 48 seats from the state. Now, with multiple defections and splits in both the Shiv Sena and the NCP, the final contours of the electoral results aren't clear: Will the Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde ensure the return of 18 MPs? Or will the BJP contest more seats so that the NDA tally goes up? In Karnataka too, the Congress seems to have an advantage as it has just won the assembly elections, and the BJP state unit is yet to put its house in order.

Turning-the-tide states: Perhaps the prime minister is aiming to deliver the impossible. During 2019, in 10 states and UTs, the BJP couldn't win a single seat out of a total of 92. These include 25 in Andhra Pradesh, 20 in Kerala and 39 in Tamil Nadu. According to the party's own research, the BJP has rarely won in around 175 constituencies all over the country, which include not only three of the Southern states but also most parts of the Northeast and the West.

Union Ministers who are not contesting the elections along with other senior Rajya Sabha members have been camping in these seats for the past year and promoting the Modi mantra of Viksit Bharat. The BJP has convinced itself that it could claim at least 100 seats from these states for the first time. The top leadership has convinced the people that its target of 370 would be achieved with a huge success in Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Kerala. The party expects to win over 40 of the 101 seats in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra and

Telangana, besides retaining 25 seats in Karnataka.

With the marginalisation of the AIADMK, the BJP is planning to contest more seats than all its other allies together. Modi himself is going to address the maximum number of rallies in these states and will forge caste-based alliances with smaller parties and field local celebrities instead of the ideologically-committed karyakartas.

The BJP's magical target is also connected to its confidence of winning more than 18 seats in West Bengal. It is convinced that there is huge anger against the TMC in the state and the current agitation in Sandeshkhali will be the game-changer.

Majority-making states: Before the BJP hits its target of over 370, it will have to repeat its nearly 100 percent strike rate in the North and some parts of the West. For example, in the eight states of Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Delhi and Jharkhand, the BJP won 121 seats out of the total of 127. It defeated the Congress in all the 26 seats in Gujarat, 25 in Madhya Pradesh, 10 in Haryana (one vacant now) and seven in Delhi. To begin its march towards 400 with its allies, the BJP has to win the same number of seats in all these states. With the INDIA bloc taking shape in some of these states, the BJP will have to put an extra dose of Modi to repeat its victory.

These, however, are not numbers that numb. Never before, except in 1984, has any party along with its allies ever crossed the 400 mark. It was only after Indira Gandhi's tragic assassination that the Congress won 404 seats. But 2024 isn't 1984. There are no emotional issues at stake.

The only reason for Modi to exude confidence appears to be faith in himself and his magic mantras. But omniscience does not always guarantee omnipotence. His detractors ask the BJP, 'Do you remember the India Shining slogan of 2004?' But there was no Modi in 2004.

OTHER WAYS TO BOARD THE TRAVEL CAROUSEL



OPINION

GEETHA RAVICHANDRAN

Former bureaucrat and author most recently of *The Spell of the Rain Tree*

IN the past few months, social media platforms have captured dramatic footage of irate travellers, holiday makers, senior citizens and children who found themselves stranded in airports, aircrafts and even on aerobridges. Perhaps some of the delays and cancellations were due to unforeseen weather conditions or technical snags that are beyond the control of the airlines. However, when travel schedules are disrupted due to the non-availability of crew or craft, the responsibility rests solely with the airlines. Whatever be the reason for delay or disruption, the lack of flow of information to travellers in advance shows a lackadaisical attitude on the part of the airlines.

Beyond the physical inconvenience and financial losses passengers are subject to, there is a humungous waste of a valuable resource—time. For even a short, one-hour flight requires a minimum offset of three to four hours—arriving at the airport well ahead, standing in queues and going through checks. However, it appears that airlines take their customers for granted. Providing

quality services is not a priority. The recent fatality that was reported because a senior citizen was not given a wheelchair is a stark example.

It is heartening to note that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has taken serious note of the ordeal passengers are subjected to and has announced that appropriate compensation is to be awarded for deficient services. It has also fixed the responsibility on the airlines to ensure the basic comfort of passengers, provide accommodation and reschedule journeys wherever required. India has one of the fastest-growing aviation sectors. While expansion in capacity and infrastructure are being planned, providing basic services to customers, especially when air fares are climbing steeply, should not be lost sight of.

Travel woes are not confined to fliers. Traffic choking roads, even on new highways and especially on long weekends, is equally nightmarish. Even with the availability of superfast trains on major routes, it is difficult to get reservations during the holiday season. It looks like the post-Covid revenge tourism is going to be the new norm.

The slow travel movement has been around for quite a few decades. The practitioners of this art, who use slower modes of transport, seek out authentic cultural, culinary and lifestyle experiences during their journey. They are not constrained by the lack of time and are prepared to rough it out. They are conscious of the impact that faster modes of travel have on the environment. Home stays and tents cater to the growing demand for this experiential form of travel. Trekking tours are also a hot favourite with youngsters.

But the recent report of an unmanageable number of trekkers headed for Kumara Parvata in the Western Ghats during a holiday raises alarms for personal safety and potential ecological damage. It just looks like everyone has the same bright idea at the same time, thanks to the amplification available on social media. Even little-known temples in the South are witnessing thronging crowds, thanks to a growing tribe of astrologers who prescribe temple visits as remedies to overcome the effects of malefic planetary positions.



Travel by all modes is becoming uncomfortable, costlier and more time-consuming. Apart from the immersive slow travel option, today we can travel virtually in the comfort of our homes

The reasons for travel, other than for business or family compulsions, are deeply embedded in the complexities of the mind. Wanderlust has enriched us with knowledge and cultural exchanges, and has broken the barriers of insularity. Before the advent of economy, airline travel was elitist. Till a few decades ago, travellers would bring back a few curios, photographs and some memories. Now, the haul of stories in terms of videos, captured for vlogging and social media platforms, is growing exponentially. The audience is, in turn, infected by this

travel bug. Thus, the cycle of seeking curated experiences is triggered.

This boom is good for the economy, but the question that arises is whether this is sustainable. There is also the law of diminishing returns—experiences become less rewarding when it eventually kicks in. Climate change due to environmental stress is known to have altered landscapes and disappointed tourists. The lack of snow in Gulmarg during the first half of the tourist season is a case in point.

There is a growing view that travel is an overrated experience. It is the colour of the skin or the size of the wallet that determines the nature of a traveller's experience. Many other immersive experiences like street theatre, music concert or even reading a book could produce the same dopamine rush. Products of almost every culture are available globally. Global cuisines can be procured online in cities. Virtual travel experiences that provide a tour of the Louvre or the Great Barrier Reef can be had sitting in the comfort of your home.

The 19th-century thinker Ralph Waldo Emerson, had a contrarian view in the essay *Self-Reliance* even without being plagued by what ails travel today: "Travelling is a fool's paradise. Our first journeys discover to us the indifference of places... I affect to be intoxicated with sights and suggestions, but I am not intoxicated. My giant goes with me wherever I go." These words may fail to resonate with a generation seeking mind-blowing experiences. But we do carry a giant along—our insurance policies, our baggage, our expectations—as we step on the travel carousel and shoot for the stars.

QUOTE CORNER

Israel must withdraw immediately from the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Second, it must offer assurances and guarantees of non-repetition. Third, it is under obligation to offer full reparations—and the annulment or repeal of all offending legislative and regulatory measures it has adopted for the Occupied Territories.

Mohamad Hasan, foreign minister of Malaysia, at the International Court of Justice

Now the trend in the Supreme Court is that if a case is posted before a bench, people are able to predict what the result is.

Justice Kurian Joseph, Supreme Court judge who retired in 2018, at a Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Reforms seminar

In India, my work really hard for each and every thing... that's why I really work hard in my practice sessions and every innings counts for me.

Yashasvi Jaiswal, 22, after becoming the third youngest cricketer after Vinod Kamble and Donald Bradman to score two double-hundreds in Tests



MAILBAG WRITE TO

Poll-time problem

Elections are the worst time for harvesting farmers and produce-buying merchants because of over-zealous drives by government officials. The increased document-checking, policing and sudden inspections make the life of farmers difficult in transporting and selling their products. Edible seed farmers are affected the most. Sellers are not getting full cash from traders and there is no rotation of money, adding to the difficulties.

A Raja Nazimudeen, Eruvadi

Another martyr

The death of farmer Shubkar Singh in the ongoing protests is added to the list of 700 martyrs who sacrificed their lives in 2020. The reason may be the cruel winter or trigger-happy governments, but the sacrifices of our annadatas will be remembered by this grateful nation at par with freedom fighters.

P Hema Sagar, Secunderabad

Support farmers

The farmers seem to have come this time with more strength. They have put forward nine main demands, starting with ensuring MSP for all crops. It is the government's duty to support the demands, as the farmers support the country's citizens.

Jaishal K P, Malappuram

Vijayadharani defection

Self-interest and ideological infidelity explain three-time MLA S Vijayadharani's defection from the Congress to the BJP. The identity of the Congress as a secular party persuaded the people of Vilavancode to elect her. She did not reveal the deal she struck. Did she get the promise to be fielded from Kanyakumari in the Lok Sabha election?

G David Milton, Maruthancode

Kerala calculation

Contrary to expectations, AAP and Samajwadi Party have finalised seat sharing pacts with the Congress, which is also making an effort to strike a deal with the TMC. This turn of events is threatening the CPM

in Kerala, which has decided to keep the Congress at bay. Actually, the CPM is torn between the devil and the deep sea. However, it stands by its resolve not to sacrifice its pocket boroughs to the Congress at the expense of its workers' sweat and toil.

Rajamani Chelladurai, Tirunelveli

Repeal reform

The repeal of the Assam Muslim Marriage and Divorce Registration Act of 1935 signals a move towards implementing a Uniform Civil Code. This decision, aimed at curbing underage marriages, underscores the government's commitment to social reform. Transitioning to the Special Marriage Act for registrations ensures inclusivity.

Farheen Fathima, Bengaluru

Counting chickens

The BJP-led NDA may be confident or over-confident of winning the Lok Sabha elections this year. But no prime minister can afford to say that he is sure of a third term. It's too early to "ask the ministers to prepare action plan for next five years", as has been

reported. It belittles the elections and denigrates the opposition parties.

Manoharan Muthuswamy, Chennai

Birth safety

The recent deaths in Kerala underscore the hazards associated with unassisted home deliveries. It behooves us to acknowledge the fact that proficiency in childbirth assistance significantly mitigates maternal risk, warranting decisive measures to dissuade such perilous practices.

Divya Singh, email

Jatara facilities

Telangana's Jatara is a unique festival bridging barriers of caste, region and perhaps religion. It is special because of the focus on tribal culture. The government should ensure better connectivity to Medaram during the festive season. Adequate shelters with sanitation and water should be also ensured. The products made by tribal communities should be marketed through self-help groups.

M S Ravi Shankar, Hyderabad

Seat-sharing deal with SP leaves many Cong leaders sulking

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

THE voices of dissent, if not all out rebellion, have started emanating from the Congress camp after the party sealed the seat-pact with the Samajwadi Party in Lucknow on Wednesday for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

As per the deal, the SP has spared 17 of the 80 seats for the Congress keeping the remaining 63 for itself and smaller allies. However, the pack of 17 does not comprise a number of seats like Farrukhabad, Bhadohi, Lakhimpur Kheri and Shravasti, which the Congress had demanded during the negotiations with the SP.

Consequently, senior Congress leaders like Salman Khurshid, who was part of party's panel for negotiations, former MP Rajesh Mishra, Nakul Dubey (a BSP turncoat), former UPCC chief Brijlal Khabri and Naseemuddin Siddiqui, all are said to be left with a feeling of discontent.

Sounding betrayed, Khurshid — who won Farrukhabad twice in 1991 and 2009, and failed to fetch the seat in Congress quota of 17 — appealed to

the voters of the Farrukhabad on Friday to "support him" — as the seat has gone to the SP in the seat-sharing deal.

Khurshid took to microblogging site X saying: "How much will my relations with Farrukhabad be tested? The question is not about me but about the future of all of us, about the future generations. Never bowed before the decisions of fate. I can break, I can't bend. You promise to support me, I will keep singing songs."

Congress's former MP from Varanasi, Rajesh Mishra is also reported to be sulking and ready to explore options. "I am not a novice in electoral politics. I have been a member of state assembly, council and Lok Sabha as well. I wanted to contest the upcoming elections to win and had made all the preparation to be in fray from Bhadohi in eastern UP as I was sure to win the seat. But it has gone to the SP," Mishra told the media in Varanasi.

Similarly, former UPCC chief and a BSP turncoat, Brijlal Khabri was seeking a ticket from Jalaun but this seat was also not allotted to Congress in the negotiations.

BJP likely to release 1st list of candidates after Feb 29

List may name Modi and Shah, besides some ministers and sitting MPs

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

AMID a growing poll fever for the general election, the BJP is likely to release the first list of around 100 candidates for several high-profile seats between February 29 and March 7.

The seats may include Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Gandhinagar (Gujarat), Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh), Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra) and Amethi (Uttar Pradesh).

Sources said the first list of Lok Sabha candidates would be released after the meeting of the party's Central Election Committee (CEC), which finally clears the names. "The CEC meeting with the attendance of PM Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and party chief JP Nadda, is likely to be held on February 29 at the party headquarters and the first list can be expected the same day or the next few days," said a senior party leader.

The Election Commission of India is expected to announce the poll dates between March 9 and 13 and before this, the BJP is learnt to have decided to release the first list of candidates, followed by the second list containing 100-110 names in the next few days.



BJP chief JP Nadda during a party meeting on the upcoming Lok Sabha elections at the party headquarters in New Delhi on Saturday | PFI

A buzz in the saffron party is that the first list of candidates may have the names of Modi for Varanasi and Shah for Gandhinagar, besides some Union ministers and senior leaders and sitting MPs.

"Wider discussions are going on. It is being expected that the first list would reflect the party's balanced criteria of selection of candidates by maintaining social equations," remarked a party source.

He said the candidates would be decided by keeping all factors that would enable the party to achieve the target of 370

seats. This newspaper has learnt that the BJP is consulting its NDA allies, on various seats where the allies have their sitting MPs.

When asked whether the Prime Minister would contest from two seats — one from Varanasi and another from any seat in Tamil Nadu — a senior BJP source said it appears unlikely. "It depends on the PM," he said. "The names of Bhupendra Yadav from Haryana, Nityanand Rai from Uttar Pradesh in Bihar and other sitting MPs may also be announced in the first list," he added.

PM launches world's largest grain storage plan for co-ops

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

INDIA on Saturday launched the world's largest grain storage initiative in the cooperative sector, with an investment surpassing ₹1.15 lakh crore. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the pilot project of this scheme across 11 Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) in 11 different states.

Additionally, Modi laid the cornerstone for various key projects, including the establishment of 500 PACS nationwide within the cooperative framework and inaugurated the project for computerisation of 18,000 PACS across the country. At the event, Modi highlighted the critical role of cooperation in fortifying the agricultural sector.

"The inauguration of the world's most extensive grain storage plan today paves way for the construction of thousands of warehouses and godowns across the nation, alongside other initiatives like PACS computerisation, which will redefine agriculture and modernise farming."

Modi underscored the timeless concept of cooperation in India, illustrating how pooling smaller resources can achieve



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks after inaugurating multiple initiatives for the cooperative sector, in New Delhi on Saturday | PFI

greater tasks. "Cooperatives form the cornerstone of India's self-reliant society, embodying more than just a system — they represent a belief, a spirit that can transform ordinary daily systems into vast industrial ones," he said.

Modi reiterated his administration's dedication to unifying India's fragmented agricultural sector, highlighting the growth of entrepreneurship among small rural farmers through Farmers Producers Organisations (FPOs). "With the establishment of a dedicated ministry of cooperation, 8,000 out of a targeted 10,000 FPOs are now operational. Fur-

thermore, over 25,000 cooperative units in the fisheries sector are active, with plans to establish 2 lakh cooperative societies in future," Modi said, emphasizing the importance of modernising agriculture for achieving a self-reliant India.

Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah outlined the initiatives in the cooperative sector, stating the grain storage scheme would match 100% of India's grain production capacity. He emphasized the integration of PACS godowns with the national food grain supply chain, a collaborative effort involving NABARD and the National Cooperative Development Corporation.

₹50 cr spent on renaming Ayushman Bharat Health Centres as Arogya Mandir

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

THE Centre has spent over ₹50 crore to change the name of Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre (AB-HWC) to Ayushman Arogya Mandir, revealed a reply to an application filed under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

The Union health ministry announced the renaming of its flagship programme, which aims to provide free health care and insurance cover for ₹5 lakh per year to low-income earners, on November 25 last year.

Five days after the renaming, Kerala-based RTI activist KV Babu filed the plea and received a reply on February 8. "As per the RTI reply, ₹3,000 was to be spent for renaming each of the over 1.6 lakh AB-HWCs. This means the total expenditure incurred in renaming these AB-HWCs cost the exchequer over ₹50 crore," Babu told this newspaper.

According to official data, there are 167,891 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs in the country. "There is nothing to suggest any upgrade in infrastructure or increase in the manpower of

Flagship scheme

The health ministry announced renaming of its Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre, which aims to provide free health care and insurance cover for ₹5 lakh per year to low-income earners, on November 25 last year. About ₹3,000 was to be spent for renaming each of the over 1.6 lakh centres.

health care facilities along with the renaming," he said, adding that the RTI reply did not share information about communications with the stakeholders or details of budgets for infrastructure.

In the reply, the activist received letters issued by LS Changsan, additional secretary and mission director of National Health Mission, which states how the new name would have the tagline, 'Arogyam Paramam Dhanam', both in Hindi and English. The states were asked to complete the renaming exercise by December 31, 2023.

Changsan again wrote to the states on January 2, requesting them to issue orders to complete the renaming by January 31.

INDIRA'S '3RD SON' WHO KEPT CONG ON TENTERHOOKS

ANURAAG SINGH

REWIND to 1980. In a Lok Sabha election rally in support of her party's 33-year-old debutant candidate Kamal Nath at Chhindwara's Shukla Ground Stadium, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi described Nath as her "third son."

Nath, a close friend of Gandhi's younger son Sanjay Gandhi since the Doon School-Dehradun days, justified the former PM's choice of fielding him in place of third-time sitting MP Gargi Shankar Mishra. He retained the Chhindwara seat for Congress by 70,000-plus votes. Fast-forward to 2024. The nine-time former Lok Sabha member from Chhindwara and ex-Madhya Pradesh CM kept the Gandhi family and the top leadership of the party in Delhi and Bhopal on edge for three days. The swirling buzz had already raised enough dust over Nath and his son Nakul joining the BJP.

Days later, Nath ended the speculation by urging people to join Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, which will enter the state on March 2. This, coupled with the announcement that Nath will himself be part of the 5-day yatra in the state, brought a sigh of relief to the party.

Aged 77, when most politicians retire or plan to quit politics, Nath continues to be the focus of MP politics not just in Congress circles, but also in the ruling BJP.

Born in a leading business family in UP's Kanpur in 1946, Nath, a commerce graduate from Kolkata's Xavier's College, joined the Indian Youth Congress in 1968. His subsequent political growth was fuelled by his alleged assistance in toppling the Janata Party government by creating rifts between Morarji Deesai and Charan Singh.

His sustained contacts with Raj Narain (who had defeated Indira Gandhi from Rae Bareilly in 1977) are believed to have been behind the socialist leader advising Charan Singh to form the government at the Centre with Congress support in 1979. But the government fell as the Congress withdrew support in January 1980.

It was this shrewd maneuvering that pushed him close to the Gandhi family. It also led the Congress to make him a candidate for the Chhindwara seat in 1980.

Since 1980, Nath has won the Chhindwara LS seat nine times (losing only once in 1997 to BJP veteran Sunderlal Patwa). The seat was won by his wife Alka Nath in 1996 (after Nath was denied the ticket over being named in a hawala



scam) and in 2019 by elder son Nakul Nath, when Nath was the state CM.

In May 2018, just six months before the assembly polls, Nath was made the MP Congress president. He guided the party to power in the state after 15 years with the help of four independents and three BSP and SP MLAs. But the government fell in March 2020 following the resignation of Jyotiraditya Scindia and 22 MLAs. Still, Nath continued to enjoy the party's confidence despite losing most seats in the November 2020 bypolls to 26 assembly seats.

Three years later, Nath was again projected as the party's CM face in MP despite murmurs of dissent from other state party leaders.

Known to be an ardent devotee of Lord Hanuman, it was Nath who infused doses of 'soft-Hindutva' into Congress' state politics months before the 2023 assembly polls.

However, open differences between Nath and another former CM, Digvijaya Singh, allowed the BJP to project the Congress as a divided house.

Though the Congress suffered one of the worst defeats against the MP BJP losing the 2023 elections by 66-163 seats, Nath managed to maintain his hold on Chhindwara, as Congress won all seven seats.

Counted among the wealthiest politicians in the country (ADR 2023 MP Assembly polls report put his and wife Alka Nath's total assets to be worth ₹134 crore), Nath has had his share of controversies too.

The BJP has regularly targeted Nath, alleging his links to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. Earlier this month, the Delhi High Court gave time to a Special Investigation Team to file its report on a plea seeking action against Nath for his alleged role in a violent mob attack at the Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib in Delhi in 1984. Nath has always refuted any involvement in that incident.

In April 2019, the I-T Department conducted searches at properties of Kamal Nath's key aides and claimed to have found ₹281 crore in unaccounted cash, including ₹20 crore paid to the Congress HQ in Delhi "through hawala."

LS election dates circulating online fake, says ECI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Election Commission of India on Saturday junked a viral WhatsApp message announcing the schedule for the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections, saying it was "fake".

In a post on microblogging site X, the apex election body said, "A fake message is being shared on WhatsApp regarding the schedule for Lok Sabha Elections 2024. Fact check: The message is fake. No dates have been announced so far by the ECI. The Election Schedule is announced by the commission through a press conference."

Earlier on Friday, reports quoting sources claimed that the Election Commission of India is expected to announce the schedule for Lok Sabha elections 2024 after March 13.

Currently, the election commission teams are touring across states to assess the election preparedness, and are expected to conclude the exercise by March 13.

RAJYA SABHA CANDIDATES BACKGROUNDS, ASSETS

Here's a look at the criminal backgrounds and total assets as declared by 58 out of 59 Rajya Sabha candidates in their affidavits:

CRIMINAL CASES AGAINST RS CANDIDATES

71 (36%) WITH CRIMINAL CASES

10 WITH SERIOUS CRIMINAL CASES

1 with attempt to murder case (IPC Section 307)

PARTYWISE ANALYSIS OF CANDIDATES WITH SERIOUS CRIMINAL CASES

- 3 (10%) out of 30 candidates from BJP
- 4 (44%) out of 9 candidates from INC
- 1 (25%) out of 4 candidates from AITC
- 1 (33%) out of 3 candidates from SP
- 1 (100%) candidate from BRS

BILLIONAIRE CANDIDATES

12 (21%) OUT OF 58 CANDIDATES ARE BILLIONAIRES

PARTYWISE ANALYSIS OF CANDIDATES WITH ASSETS ABOVE ₹100 CR

- 4 (13%) out of 30 candidates from BJP
- 2 (22%) out of 9 candidates from INC
- 2 (67%) out of 3 candidates from YSRCP
- 1 (33%) out of 3 candidates from Samajwadi Party
- 1 (100%) candidate from SHS
- 1 (100%) candidate from Nationalist Congress Party
- 1 (100%) JD(S) candidate

CANDIDATES WITH HIGHEST ASSETS

- Abhishek Manu Singhvi (INC) ₹1,872 cr
- Jaya Amitabh Bachchan (SP) ₹1,578 cr
- Kupendra Reddy (JDS) ₹871 cr

Text by: Rajesh Kumar Thakur, (Source: Association for Democratic Reforms)

Quad reflects growth of a multipolar world, it's here to stay & grow: EAM

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

QUAD today reflects the growth of a multi-polar world and is against the spheres of influence, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said at the Raisina Quad Think Tank Forum on Saturday.

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, commonly known as the Quad, is a strategic security dialogue between Australia, India, Japan and the US.

"The Quad is here to stay, the Quad is here to grow and the Quad is here to contribute. So, I would urge you all, please help us to make it more contemporary, make it more relevant, make it more impactful. This is a very laudable initiative that makes — not just the Indo-Pacific, but the world as a whole — more free and open and much more respectful of international law and a rules-based order," Jaishankar said.

Messages from Australian foreign minister Penny Wong, Japan foreign minister Yoko Kamikawa and the US deputy



secretary of state Kurt Campbell were also read out.

Jaishankar said that Quad reflected five things: one, the growth of a multi-polar order; two, it is a post-alliance and post-cold war thinking; three, it is against spheres of influence; four, it expresses the democratising of the global space and is a collaborative, not unilateral, approach; and five, it is a statement that in this day and age, others cannot have a veto on our choices.

"In the last five years, Quad has become a significant and substantive platform for four

large resident Indo-Pacific vibrant democracies, that are seeking to uphold an open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. Like any new mechanism or platform, the Quad too is a product of its times. It emerged from global necessities, faltered for some time due to a complexity of reasons and was then reincarnated with new governments and different circumstances. Shinzo Abe in Japan was perhaps an exception, which is a statement in itself," Jaishankar added.

In 2006, the idea of Quad was put forth by the then Japanese PM Shinzo Abe. It unraveled within a year and Abe himself had left office at the time. Quad was resumed in 2017, first at the foreign secretaries level and in 2019 at the ministerial.

"Coincidentally, I was occupying both positions at that juncture. In 2021, all the four of us, upgraded it to the Summit level and it has flourished since. It has been my privilege to have participated in all the meetings that have taken place since then," Jaishankar said.

Locals up ante in Sandeshkhali

Residents chase away family of a TMC leader in presence of cops

PRANAB MONDAL @Kolkata

REGARDLESS of the Bengal government setting up a mini secretariat at the strife-hit Sandeshkhali to contain people's anger that led to a large-scale stir against the TMC satraps, the North 24 Parganas island continued to be on the boil on Saturday.

Venting out their anger, the locals chased away the family of a TMC leader in presence of policemen and women, who has been at the forefront of the stir against the TMC's local strongman Shahjahan Sheikh and other satraps, staged demonstrations and took out protest marches wielding brooms.

As many as 18 camps have been set up in Sandeshkhali for the lodging of complaints. In the past four days, 817 complaints were lodged, 90 per cent of which was about converting agriculture land into fisheries by grabbing common people's properties forcibly.

Police, too, set up makeshift centres for receiving complaints in the area in which the name of Shahjahan's brother Sheikh Sirajuddin came up. "Of 66 complaints, 55 are against Sirajuddin who allegedly constructed a market complex under the banner of his name by grabbing lands forcibly," said a police officer.



DYFI West Bengal State Secretary Meenakshi Mukherjee visits Sandeshkhali | PFI

As part of a damage control move, two TMC ministers Partha Bhowmik and Sujit Basi visited the trouble-hit island on Saturday and faced the locals' ire in their stronghold. More than two hundred women surrounded Basu and Bhowmik to narrate their plight.

Both the ministers gave a patient hearing to the aggrieved villagers who complained about forcible land grabbing and demanded immediate arrest of TMC strongman Shahjahan and the state government's intervention. The villagers, mainly women, protested when Bhowmik

made a remark that they were taught to demand Shahjahan's arrest by "someone".

"We have heard the villagers' complaint and will inform Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee," said Basu.

Sandeshkhali has been on the boil since three officers of the ED were bashed up and left bleeding when they went to search the house of local TMC leader Shahjahan Sheikh in a foodgrain scam case on January 5. After the TMC leader and his two henchmen went underground, the women mustered up their courage to protests against the sexual abuse on them by the party's satraps.

'Tribals tortured, MNREGA wages forcibly taken'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

A team of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), which visited West Bengal's Sandeshkhali, has learnt that TMC leader Sheikh Shahjahan and his associates, accused of land grab and sexual assault under coercion, have forcibly been taking MNREGA wages from poor tribal families and torture them for voting against the state's ruling party. Led by its Vice-Chairperson Ananta Nayak, the three-member team has also learnt that the state police allegedly "protected" Shahjahan and his associates in their acts of exploitation against poor tribals.

The probe team is back in Delhi and is preparing a report that will be submitted to the government. Nayak said the panel had received over 50 complaints of sexual harassment of tribal women and land grab by Shahjahan and his aides. The riverine Sandeshkhali area in North 24 Parganas district, which is situated about 100 kilometres from Kolkata, has been on the boil for over a month.

(with inputs from PTI)

Farmer stir may continue even after LS code of conduct

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

THE Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee (KMSC) on Saturday stated that the Dilli-Chalo march will persist until their demands are met, potentially continuing beyond the implementation of the model code of conduct for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

Speaking to the media at the Shambhu border, Sarwan Singh Pandher, General Secretary of the KMSC, emphasised the determination of the farmers, stating, "This agitation will continue until our demands are addressed. Should the center accept our demands tomorrow, we will reassess our course of action."

Addressing concerns about the impending parliamentary elections and the subsequent enforcement of the model code of conduct, Pandher asserted, "We are not concerned about the model code of conduct as we are not involved in the distribution of tickets or campaigning at polling booths. Our focus remains on the continuation of the agitation,

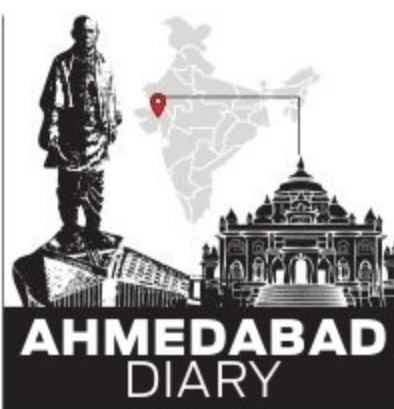
Injured farmer transferred

Preetpal Singh, who sustained severe injuries during the protests at Khanauri, has been transferred to PGI Chandigarh from PGI Rohtak, following a request from Punjab Chief Secretary Anurag Verma to Haryana counterpart, Sanjeev Kaushal, for custody and further medical treatment. Punjab Health Minister Balbir Singh confirmed the transfer

even amidst the enforcement of the code of conduct.

In a related development, 27-year-old Preetpal Singh, who sustained severe injuries during the protests at Khanauri, has been transferred to PGI Chandigarh from PGI Rohtak, following a request from Punjab Chief Secretary Anurag Verma to his Haryana counterpart, Sanjeev Kaushal, for custody and further medical treatment.

Punjab Health Minister Balbir Singh confirmed the transfer and assured that Preetpal Singh would receive adequate medical care at PGI Chandigarh, with full support provided to his family.



AHMEDABAD DIARY

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA

Our correspondent in Gujarat

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AAP state chief may contest bypolls again

Significant political discussions are underway regarding the upcoming by-elections for four vacant seats in the Gujarat Legislative Assembly. Isudan Gadhvi, the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Gujarat president, is considering another run. The by-elections, scheduled alongside the Lok Sabha elections, will fill four seats in the Gujarat assembly. Sources indicate that the Congress and AAP intend to form an alliance for these elections, with Congress agreeing not to contest in Visavdar, leaving the field open for AAP. Isudan Gadhvi, who was defeated by a BJP candidate, is expected to run for the seat in Visavdar.



Clash among Rajkot BJP leaders ahead of PM visit

Tensions flared among Rajkot City BJP leaders ahead of the Prime Minister's scheduled visit on Sunday. A meeting at the mayor's residence reportedly turned confrontational between the local BJP president and an MLA. Sources claim that City President Mukesh Doshi raised concerns over MLA Darshitaben's frequent absences. During a gathering that included the organisation's office bearers, workers, and ward presidents at Mayor Bungalow, Doshi questioned Dr. Darshita Shah, the Rajkot West MLA, about her lack of participation in programs, leading to a dispute.

Controversy surrounds minister's remarks

Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi ignited controversy with his announcement in the Assembly on February 21 that the state had removed 108 Mazars in a crackdown on encroachments. During a plea for the approval of the home department's budget, Sanghavi highlighted the demolition campaign and raised questions about the sudden appearance of many mazars on the recently renovated grounds of Uparkot Fort in Junagadh. "It is puzzling how these mazars were erected so suddenly at Uparkot," he remarked. This statement by Sanghavi has drawn criticism from several minority organisations.

Modi lays foundation stone for 10 projects worth ₹34K cr in C'garh

EJAZ KAISER @Raipur

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth ₹34,427 crore in several important sectors in Chhattisgarh under 'Viksit Bharat, Viksit Chhattisgarh' on Saturday.

He was participating in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra programme organised in Raipur through video conferencing. Nine projects worth ₹18,897 crore were launched and the foundation stone of a mega venture of ₹15,530 crore was laid by him.

"Viksit Chhattisgarh will be a reality with the empowerment of farmers, youth and women's ability. The BJP has made it (Chhattisgarh) and BJP only will elevate (nurture) it", said the PM and further added that the state has hard-working farmers, talented youth and a wealth of nature. Chhattisgarh always had whatever is required to ensure development but those who

ruled the country for a long period after independence lacked a big vision, he stated and assured the people with a pledge of "Developed Chhattisgarh". CM Vishnu Deo Sai along with tourism, culture school education minister Brijmohan Agrawal and agriculture Minister Shri Ram Vichar Netam were present.

Among the projects included three key First Mile Connectivity (FMC) of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) to help in faster, eco-friendly and efficient mechanised evacuation of coal. Built at a cost of ₹600 crore, Dipka, Baroud and Chhal FMC projects are equipped with a capacity of 41 million ton per annum.

In line with India's commitment to strengthening energy security and sustainable development, he inaugurated NTPC's Lara Super Thermal Power Project with highly efficient Super Critical technology stage-I (2x800 MW) and laid foundation stone of Ultra Super Critical technology stage-II in Raigarh district.



PRIYANKA JOINS BROTHER

Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during the 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra', in Moradabad on Saturday | PFI

Yogi cancels police recruitment exam

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

FOLLOWING the allegations of paper leak, the Uttar Pradesh government, on Saturday, cancelled the police constable recruitment examination which, it said, would be held again in the next six months.

In a statement, UP CM Yogi Adityanath said that those found involved in using unfair means during the exam on February 17-18 would face the strictest action. "Those involved in using unfair means and breaching the secrecy of the examination are under the

radar of Special task Force (STF) of UP police, and some big arrests have happened," the CM was quoted as saying in the statement.

The CM said that there won't be any compromise with the sanctity of the examination while assuring applicants that those who tried to play around with their hard work would be dealt with an iron fist.

The decision to cancel the drive was taken by the CM on Saturday after reviewing the situation at a high-level meeting with the UP DGP, ADG (Law and Order), Principal Secre-

tary, Home. However the probe into alleged leak of the paper was handed over to UPSTF.

Considered to be one of the biggest recruitment drive by any state government, the examination to fill the posts of 60,244 police constable was held on February 17-18, wherein a total of 48 lakh candidates appeared. In all 50 lakh applicants had filled the forms.

There were allegations of a suspected paper leak following a complaint was submitted by Inspector Ram Babu Singh at Lucknow's Krishna Nagar police station.

Assam move on Muslim Marriage Act kicks up row

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Guwahati

THE Himanta Biswa Sarma government's decision to repeal the Assam Muslim Marriage and Divorce Registration Act, 1935 has triggered a row with some leaders from the minority community saying they will challenge the move in court, calling it the first step towards implementing Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state.

"They want to polarise voters by provoking the Muslims. This is the first step towards bringing UCC but it will cause the downfall of the BJP government in the state," minority-based All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) chief Maulana Badruddin Ajmal told journalists on Saturday.

"We will definitely oppose the repeal of the Act but after the elections. We will keep silent for now," Ajmal added. Referring to the one-time compensation of ₹two lakh to be provided to Muslim marriage registrars for their rehabilitation after the Act is repealed, the Dhubri MP said the Qazis are not beggars. "Through the media, I re-

'A MOVE TOWARDS UCC'

The Assam cabinet on Friday decided to repeal the Assam Muslim Marriage and Divorce Registration Act, 1935

WHAT GOVT SAYS

● Minister and government spokesperson Jayanta Malla Baruah said the decision was taken as the state is heading towards UCC. ● Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the move to repeal the Act would help prohibit child marriages in the state.

WHAT OPPN, OUTFITS SAY

AIUDF chief Maulana Badruddin Ajmal said BJP wants to polarise voters
Congress MLA Abdul Rashid Mandal says the move is discriminatory against the Muslims; the govt did not bring any law to ban polygamy
Assam Jatiya Parishad chief Lurinjyoti Gogoi said The government should not make unilateral decisions on any issue involving social customs, religious beliefs and public sentiments

quest them not to accept a single paisa from the government," the Dhubri MP said.

His party colleague and MLA Karim Uddin Barbhuiya said the government's decision would be challenged in a court. "We have no option other than to fight it legally. Their idea is to torment the Muslim society. This is BJP's political agenda for votes. They are doing this under pressure from the RSS," Barbhuiya said.

Another AIUDF legislator Rafiqul Islam alleged that the

government's decision is a tactic to target the Muslims as elections are round the corner. "Despite assertions, they could not bring a bill on polygamy or UCC, so they are repealing the Assam Muslim Marriage and Divorce Registration Act," Islam said.

Calling the move is discriminatory against the Muslims, Congress MLA Abdul Rashid Mandal alleged the government was attempting to polarise voters. "The government talks about UCC. It also talks about

its move to ban polygamy. But no such bill or ordinance has been brought in the assembly so far," Mandal. Abdul Qadir of Assam Jamiat Ulema Hind said they would consult lawyers. "It remains to be seen if the Assam cabinet has the powers to repeal this Act. We understand that as the election is round the corner and the government has lost popular support, it took up this effort to try and regain its lost ground," he said.

Political outfit Assam Jatiya Parishad chief Lurinjyoti Gogoi alleged the BJP government was playing politics on the issue. "The government should not make unilateral decisions on any issue involving social customs, religious beliefs and public sentiments. The views of scholars of the communities concerned need to be sought in these matters. But creating a political issue to provoke a community by mocking at their sentiment is likely to cause social unrest," he warned.

Minister and government spokesperson Jayanta Malla Baruah said that the government decided to repeal the Act as the state is heading towards UCC.

Climate change could be a reason for fewer avian guests this year in Punjab

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

DUE to change in climatic conditions and less snowfall in Europe, besides the ongoing Ukraine-Russia war, there has been a 22 per cent decrease in number of migratory birds which visited the Harike Wildlife Sanctuary this year, data shows.

As many as 50,529 migratory birds were spotted this year at the sanctuary, north India's largest wetland, compared to 65,624 last year, as per the latest bird survey.

But the encouraging fact is that there are rare sightings of water birds and raptors, such as crested serpent eagle and great and black-necked grebe, this year in the six protected wetlands of Punjab.

A total of 114 species of migratory and resident water birds visited the wetlands of the state this season as compared to 107 species last year.

According to the survey conducted by Punjab State forest and wildlife department and World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

Winged guests in wetlands of Punjab



Harike Wildlife Sanctuary	Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve	Ranjit Sagar Dam Conservation Reserve	Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary
50,529	12,000	6,000	3,000
Ropar Conservation Reserve	2,000	Kanjli Wetland Conservation Reserve	600

this year, around 114 species of water birds were recorded from the six protected wetlands of Punjab. The survey was conducted in these protected wetlands of Punjab in January and February 2024. Talking with this newspaper, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, Punjab, Dharminder Sharma said,

"The change in climatic conditions across the globe and due to late winters, the bird count has come down. Besides there has been less snowfall in Europe as compared to previous years and also the war between Ukraine and Russia might be the reason for migratory birds from those parts of the world choosing other destinations."

LOW consumption growth continues to be a cause of worry for most consumer companies. However, they have been able to cash in on the growing wealth at the top end of the consumer section by launching premium products. In an interaction with **Dipak Mondal**, Dabur India Chairman **Mohit Burman** says though rural demand continues to lag urban demand, the gap between urban and rural demand has shrunk significantly. **An excerpt:**

FMCG companies have been facing problem of slow recovery in consumption, especially in rural areas. Do you think 2024 would be any different?

While rural India had been a key driver of growth for the FMCG industry till a few years back, rural demand dropped below urban demand in the previous financial year due to the high inflationary environment. New-age channels like modern trade and e-commerce drove urban growth over the past year. While syndicated data shows rural demand continues to lag urban demand, the gap between urban and rural has shrunk significantly, showing a sequential revival in demand from the hinterland.

That said, Dabur has seen demand from the hinterland return to the growth trajectory and outpace urban demand in the third quarter of this fiscal. Rural growth for Dabur was 200 bps higher than urban growth in Q3. This is a result of several initiatives that we have rolled out to seed demand in the hinterland. We have been investing in expanding our rural footprint, which has grown from 100,000 in March 2023 to 117,000 in December 2023. We are working towards ending this financial year with a rural coverage of 1.2 lakh villages. Even syndicated data shows Dabur's rural distribution has grown the highest among FMCG peers, giving us a distinct advantage and helped us reap the benefits of improvement in rural consumer sentiments.

We have also expanded our product basket in the rural market by way of newer affordable and rural-specific packs across categories to feed these markets and push demand growth. We have invested in consumer activations in rural India to better reach out to consumers in the hinterland, giving them an opportunity to touch, feel and experience our products.

Do you think inflation remains a cause of concern as far as consumption at the bottom of the pyramid is concerned? While Inflation has been be-



FULL DEMAND RECOVERY TO TAKE COUPLE OF MORE QUARTERS

Dabur India Chairman says the gap between urban and rural demand has shrunk significantly

With South India's contribution increasing, we have decided to establish a new manufacturing facility there to better cater to the local demand

nign for most part of the current fiscal, which helped companies shore up margins, we are witnessing higher food inflation now. I think it will take a couple of quarters for full recovery in demand.

Most FMCG companies are pointing towards premiumisation of their product portfolio. What has been the case for Dabur?

As I mentioned earlier, we are looking at both urban and rural markets to drive growth. In urban markets, where expansion is driven by e-commerce, modern trade channels, and expansion of mini metro and class I towns, we are focusing on premiumisation with large pack sizes. We are also introducing new brands in the premium category, particularly on e-commerce platforms, that relate with the millennial

and centennials.

We are restaging our core to reach out to Young India. We are looking at three key aspects here. The first is to build stronger scientific claims for each of our products and back them up with scientific data and clinical trials. In addition, we will be increasing the relevance of our time-tested and efficacious products by introducing new-age formats, and introducing aspirational packaging for our products. The repackaging exercise is aimed at tapping into this younger user base. The idea is to make a pack more consumer-friendly with ergonomically better designs that are easier to hold and use.

Are you planning any new product categories in the premium segment?

Yes, we continue to look at new and adjacent

categories to expand our total addressable market.

How do you think the competition in the FMCG segment playing out given both Reliance and Tatas are upping their games in the segment?

Competition has always been a part of the landscape and it's nothing new for us. It is, in fact, beneficial for both Dabur and for the category on the whole. To cite an example, we operate in Ayurvedic health-care space, which is a highly under-penetrated category in India. The entry of new players would only help grow the size of the pie and get more non-users into the category. So, it's going to be beneficial for the industry. And as the largest player in the category with a nearly 140-year heritage, we would surely benefit from it.

Do you see private sector capex increasing in the next financial year? What is your capex plan for next financial year?

Yes, I am confident private sector investment would surely increase in the coming months and years. At Dabur, our capex stood at ₹478 crore in the first nine months of FY24. For the full year 2023-24, our expected capex would be about ₹500 crore. This includes investments in our domestic plants in Indore and Tezpur, besides investments in Nepal and other overseas businesses.

Last month, Dabur also announced plans to invest ₹135 crore in setting up a new manufacturing facility in South India to meet the growing demand for our products in the region. Our business has substantially scaled up in South India and today accounts for about 18-20% of our domestic business. With South India's contribution increasing, we have decided to establish a new manufacturing facility there to better cater to the local demand. This is not only an opportunity to bring more jobs to the region, but also allows us to further expand our manufacturing capabilities and meet the growing need for Dabur products in South India.

Almost a quarter of your revenue comes from international market. Do you have a medium term target in mind in terms of revenue contribution from international markets?

Our International Business reported an 11.7% growth in constant currency terms during the third quarter despite the geopolitical headwinds. While we do not give any guidance, as a policy, we expect to report high double-digit growth in constant currency in the international business this financial year.

NEWSCOPE

SLEDGE-HAMMERING FARMERS NOT THE ANSWER TO MSP, DEBT WAIVER WOES

GURBIR SINGH

STORM clouds are building up at the gates of Delhi. Farmers from Punjab and Haryana have resumed their march after four rounds of talks with the Union government have yielded no settlement. Things have taken a plunge for the worse after the strongarm tactics of the Haryana police – shooting teargas and firing rubber bullets – claimed the life of a youth, Shubh Karan Singh, at the Kanauri border.

One can see the contours of the agitation quickly widening as the stalemate worsens. Initially started by a dozen or so Punjab-based kisan and farm workers unions for pressing the demand for minimum support price (MSP) and debt waiver, the protests have now drawn in the 2021 protest apex group, the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), after the death of the young farmer.

A national 'tractor rally' to jam highways has been announced for 26 February followed by a 'Mahapanchayat' of farmers in Delhi on 14 March. The farmers leaders have learnt their lessons from the 2021 agitation and have decided not to accept half measures. They also know it's the runup to the Lok Sabha elections, and it is best to strike when the iron's hot.

Unremunerative prices

The current round of farm protests are a continuum of the 2021 agitations that resulted in the repeal of the 3 farm laws. The farmers saw the Union government's laws as a bid to bypass the 'mandi' system that provided both price support and loans at the time of crisis. The laws were seen as an attempt by financial groups to 'corporate' agriculture and take over the production and distribution of farm produce.

This round of protests has raised a more fundamental issue – the distress caused by unremunerative prices. That is why the demand for legislation validating a minimum support price (MSP) for not just rice and paddy, but for a spectrum of 23 crops, is central to the current agitation.

The problem of unremunerative prices and the need for an MSP system rears its head every now and then. It was well articulated more than 4 decades

ago by the Maharashtra farm leader Sharad Joshi who formed the Shetkari Sanghata to demand remunerative prices for a variety of crops. Pitching the problem as a Bharat-versus-India contradiction, he said Urban India, using its political and financial clout, exploited and colonized the rural hinterland through layers of middlemen. He thus demanded direct access to both local and international markets for farmers so that they reap the intrinsic worth of their crops.

In the current imbroglio, the two main stumbling blocks

upto 30 percent, farmers leaders say.

The other key demand is for an across-the-board waiver of loans to farmers and agricultural labour. These loans have had a crushing effect on family income and have been the main cause of the continuing suicides among farmers.

Teargas and bullets

The woes of India's farmers are not unique. Agriculture across the world had become less remunerative with increasing input costs, fewer subsidies and falling prices. France, one of Europe's biggest agricultural producers, has been shaken by farmer protests over the last two months. They have jammed highways and dumped their products on Paris' pretty streets to raise concerns about competition from cheaper imports, and environmental laws that have made input costs more expensive. Farmers in Italy, Spain and Poland too have been on the warpath.

What is however striking is the difference in the way farmers protests are handled in say France as compared to India. French farmers' tractors can enter Paris, and they can stage their protests including block roads and highways as long as they don't turn violent. This is quite at variance with the tear-gassing with drones, firing on farmers and policemen erecting cement barricades and planting giant nails on the roads to prevent the protestors from reaching Delhi.

The long hand of the Union government has also extended to gagging social media content. 'X' formerly twitter has admitted to taking down both accounts and posts, especially those supporting the farmers cause, following 'executive orders' of the government. X said it disagreed with these actions as they were violative of the 'freedom of speech' but had no alternative as it was "subject to potential penalties, including imprisonment."

While there are government appeals for resuming talks, on the ground the gloves are off and the sledge hammer is coming down. Punjab's farmers are caustically referred to as 'Khalistanis'. One can differ about their demands, and their methods, but the right of farmers to peacefully protest cannot be crushed. What we have seen in the last few days does not bode well for an early settlement.



SOURAV ROY

seem to be – First, the government wants to limit MSP cover to pulses, maize and cotton crops apart from paddy and rice, while the farmers leaders want a spectrum of 23 crops included that are subject to high market volatility.

Second, the government has failed to address the key demand of calculating MSP using the formula C2+50 percent, which includes cost of production plus the input value of family labour and the rental value of owned land and interest on fixed capital. This was recommended by the MS Swaminathan Commission as a measure to tackle rural distress. The current MSP formula A2+FL reduces prices by

Adani meets Uber CEO, hints at future alliance

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

UBER CEO Dara Khosrowshahi, who is currently in India, met the billionaire promoter of Adani Group, Gautam Adani, on Saturday. Following the meeting, likely to have taken place in Adani headquarters in Ahmedabad, Adani hinted at future collaborations between the ride-hailing giant and the port-to-power conglomerate.

"Absolutely captivating chat with @dkhos, CEO of @Uber. His vision for Uber's expansion in India is truly inspiring, especially his commitment to uplifting Indian drivers and their dignity. Excited for future collaborations with Dara and his team! #UberIndia," Adani said in a post on X (formerly Twitter). In reply to Adani's tweet, Khosrowshahi said he met Adani over breakfast. He highlighted Uber's commitment to accelerate EV transition in India. "An absolutely terrific conversation with @gautam_adani over a delicious breakfast about India's phenomenal growth and rising entrepreneurship. @Uber is committed to scaling up shared mobility and accelerating transition to EVs – looking forward to take our partnership to the next level," the Uber CEO said on the post. Currently, the two parties have not announced in which area of mobility they are likely to collaborate in future.

I'm still CEO, EGM in violation of rules: Byju Raveendran

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

BYJU'S founder and chief executive Byju Raveendran said the extra-ordinary general meeting (EGM) of the company held on Friday violated Articles of Association, shareholder agreement rules and the resolutions to remove him are not binding.

A day after a group of shareholders of ThinkandLearn, parent of Byju's, voted to remove Raveendran, his wife Divya Gokulnath and his brother Riju Raveendran from the company's board, he writes a letter to the employees on Saturday stating EGM violated a lot of essential rules and decisions made in that meeting does not count.

"I continue to remain CEO, the management remains unchanged, and the board remains the same. Put differently, it is 'business as usual' at BYJU'S," he said.

He refuted that resolution to his ouster was passed unanimously and claimed that only 35 out of the 170 shareholders, representing around 45% of

the shareholding voted in favour of the resolution. "That in itself shows the very limited support that this irrelevant meeting received," he asserted.

In his letter, the ed-tech founder said the authority to modify the board's composition and management team lies with the board, not with the group of shareholders. He added that investors have framed their resolution that requests the board to just 'consider' changes to the current board structure, rather than directly mandating it. "This is evident from the excerpt of the resolution passed in yesterday's meeting: 'Resolved that' the approval of shareholders is hereby accorded for the Company and Board to Consider changes to the current Board structure to..."

The founder of the embattled firm said the meeting was convened without following the company's Articles of Association, which mandates at least one founder director to pass any resolution, therefore, the resolutions passed are not enforceable as per law.



I continue to remain CEO, the management remains unchanged, and the board remains the same. Put differently, it is 'business as usual' at BYJU'S

Byju Raveendran, founder and CEO, Byju's



LIC of India introduced new plan Amritbaal (Plan 874)

LIC launched a new product LIC's Amritbaal at the hands of Dr. Vivek Joshi, Secretary, Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, GOI. The Plan will be available for sale from 17.02.2024. The Unique Identification Number (UIN) for LIC's Amritbaal is UIN: 512N365V01. LIC's Amritbaal is an Individual, Savings, Life Insurance Plan. The plan is designed to have an adequate corpus to meet higher education and other needs of the child. It facilitates accumulation of corpus through Guaranteed additions at the rate of ₹80 per thousand basic sum assured at the end of each policy year from the inception till the end of Policy term provided policy is in force LIC of India introduced new plan "LIC's Amritbaal (Plan 874)". Minimum Age at Entry is 0 years (30 days completed). Maximum Age at Entry is 13 years (last birthday). Minimum Age at maturity is 18 years (last birthday) and Maximum Age at maturity is 25 years (last birthday).

Business & Beyond

P Joshi appointed Exe Director, AIIMS Nagpur

Dr (Prof) Prashant P Joshi, has been appointed as the new Executive Director, AIIMS Nagpur and officially joined office today. The handing over of charge by Former Executive Director, Dr (Prof) M Hanumantha Rao was held in a formal ceremony in the presence of students, faculty and staff, today. Dr Joshi, MD (Medicine), MSc (Clinical Epidemiology, UNC, Australia) is medical teacher, researcher, administrator and consultant Physician with over 40 years of experience. He was a former Professor and Head of Department (HOD) of Medicine at AIIMS Nagpur (2019-2023); and Indira Gandhi Govt. Medical College, Nagpur (2008-2019). He has published over 217 research publications in high impact factor, and prestigious journals.



AP gov't, HUL in talks to collaborate on palm oil

Nellore: The Andhra Pradesh government and Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), the country's largest FMCG business, are looking to collaborate on palm oil production in the state. A high-level delegation of the company, led by Dev Bajpai, executive director, legal and corporate affairs, HUL and Yogesh Mishra, executive director, supply chain, HUL, met the Andhra Pradesh Minister of Agriculture, Cooperation, Marketing and Food Processing, Shri. Kakani Govardhana Reddy, on 12th February at Nellore, and reaffirmed the company's commitment to partner with the state government in agriculture sector. Shri. Reddy welcomed the delegation and said the state government wants to attract investments in palm oil sector as it directly benefits farmers and industry.

Petronet executes Long-term contract with Qatar Energy

Petronet LNG Limited (PLL), India's flagship LNG terminal owning company, has successfully concluded and executed a LNG Sale & Purchase Agreement (LNG SPA) for purchase of around 7.5 MMTPA LNG with Qatar Energy on long-term basis today. This is pursuant to extension of an existing LNG SPA for LNG supply of around 7.5 MMTPA LNG Sale & Purchase Agreement on FOB basis, signed on 31st July 1999 for supplies till 2028. Under the new agreement, LNG supplies will be made on delivered (DES) basis commencing from 2028 till 2048.

POWERGRID posts Profit After Tax of ₹4,028 crore

New Delhi: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a 'Maharatna' Company under Ministry of Power, GoI, has announced unaudited financial results for Q3FY24 and nine months ended 31st December 2023. For Q3FY24, on standalone basis company has reported PAT of ₹3,970 crore and Total Income of ₹11,468 crore registering a YoY growth of 7% and 2% respectively. On consolidated basis, company has reported PAT of ₹4,028 crore and Total Income of ₹11,820 crore registering a YoY growth of 10% and 3% respectively.

SURFACE TENSION FOR INDIA

On a deck with lots of variable bounce, most of it on the lower side, hosts trail by 134 runs with 3 wickets in hand

GOMESH S @ Ranchi

AS R Ashwin walked back after watching the DRS review of his dismissal on the big screen of the JSCA International Stadium, his mind would have probably revisited an age-old Tamil slang. Uruturadhu.

To translate loosely, it's under-arm bowling with the ball rolling along the ground. Within the context of the game, the second part of the sentence is applicable. For the record, the visitors didn't consciously use it as a strategy but they understood the nature of the surface and kept chugging away. In the process, they reduced India to 219/7. The hosts still trail by 134 runs.

Both James Anderson and Ollie Robinson started off with tight lines keeping in mind the variable bounce on offer. Ben Stokes, too, played his part as he set two close fielders on the leg-side for Rohit Sharma. Anderson lured him forward and the Indian captain hung his bat outside to hand an outside edge. After a while, Stokes brought on Shoaib Bashir — who would go on to bowl 31 bowlers on the trot — and the lanky off-spinner kept hitting the right areas.

Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill showed caution, but just when it seemed like the latter was settling, Bashir found one of the cracks. It turned, beat the inside edge and hit the pads.



India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal was undone by a delivery which kept relatively low | AP

The No. 3 reviewed but it was Umpire's Call on impact (England got lucky with three Umpire's Call decisions going in their favour on Saturday).

Rajat Patidar, already under pressure to retain his place, was one of those victims. Ravindra Jadeja, who came in ahead of Sarfaraz Khan (a move they did in the last game), tried to counter-attack with two sixes. But he was the next to go as a Bashir delivery jumped a bit extra and surprised the southpaw. A simple bat-pad offering was snaffled by short-leg. Then came the body blow. Jaiswal was set for another ton when a grubber from Bashir caught the toe end of his bat before dislodging the

stumps. Sarfaraz, batting with freedom in the last game, had to grind. He was prepared to do that and had already escaped twice (a run-out and a leg-before) but he was unlucky the third time. Tom Hartley, Bashir's bowling partner for the majority of the afternoon, drew him forward with a delivery that was there to drive. But Sarfaraz only managed an outside edge and Joe Root at first slip completed the catch.

The hosts' problems were compounding quickly. And this is the problem when they play on surfaces where the toss invariably plays a big factor. Bowling coach Paras Mhambrey admitted the variable bounce on

England 1st innings (O/N 302-7): Root not out 122; Foakes c Jadeja b Siraj 47; Hartley b Siraj 13; Robinson c Jurel b Jadeja 58; Bashir c Patidar b Jadeja 0; Anderson lbw Jadeja 0. **Extras** (b5, lb9, nb5) 19. **Total** (104.5 ovs) 353. **FoWs:** 1-47, 2-47, 3-57, 4-109, 5-112, 6-225, 7-245, 8-347, 9-349, 10-353. **Bowling:** Siraj 18-3-78-2, Deep 19-0-83-3, Jadeja 32-5-76-4, Ashwin 22-1-83-1, Kuldeep 12-4-22-0, Jaiswal 1-0-6-0. **India 1st innings:** Jaiswal b Bashir 73; Rohit Foakes b Anderson 2; Gill lbw Bashir 38; Patidar lbw Bashir 17; Jadeja c Pope b Bashir 12; Khan c Root b Hartley 14; Jurel batting 30; Ashwin lbw Hartley 1; Yadav batting 17. **Extras** (b8, lb4, nb3) 15. **Total** (7 wickets, 73 ovs) 219. **FoWs:** 1-4, 2-86, 3-112, 4-130, 5-161, 6-171, 7-177. **Bowling:** Anderson 12-4-36-1, Robinson 9-0-39-0, Bashir, 32-4-84-4, Hartley 19-5-47-2, Root 1-0-1-0.

offer caught them by surprise. "...we didn't expect it to be playing that low on the second day itself," he said at the end of the day's play. "I think a couple of balls did keep low in the first innings as well, but that's what we didn't expect. We expected it to get slower as the days progress, but not the variable bounce that we've seen in the last couple of days. That's something that we were not expecting."

To be fair to Mhambrey, he said they didn't ask for this kind of surface. "There weren't any instructions that we need a

turner," he said. "I don't think it is a turner as of now. It's just the low bounce which is making batting a little difficult."

Minutes after Sarfaraz went, R Ashwin, found out how difficult it was to survive. He came forward to defend a straight Hartley delivery but the shooter him on the ankle. Ashwin reviewed out of hope but an Umpire's Call on hitting the stumps sent him packing. 7/177 in under 56 overs. The one silver lining? You could make a case for saying the batters weren't giving their wickets as they had done in each of the first three Tests. But that will be scant consolation for the hosts who will need Dhruv Jurel and Kuldeep Yadav to prolong their already unbeaten 42-run stand on the third morning.

What helped the England spinners was the lines and lengths the seamers operated on. Ollie Robinson, despite his lack of pace, and James Anderson gave no width or length to pounce on, constantly dragging the batter forward and back, drying up the runs.

If the inconsistent bounce had its say, credit has to be given to their fields and the lines they bowled through the day. If you go by the scoreboard, it would seem like the batters failed, but what it will not say is how tough the conditions were and how much better the bowling was.



TN's Baba Indrajith scored 139-ball 80 on Day 2 against Saurashtra | EXPRESS

TN batters step up, Saurashtra struggle

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

HALF-CENTURIES by captain R Sai Kishore (60), B Indrajith (80) and Boopathi Vaishna Kumar (65) came in handy for Tamil Nadu to bag crucial lead of 117 runs over Saurashtra on the second day of the quarterfinals of the Ranji Trophy played at Coimbatore on Saturday. Tamil Nadu were 300 for 6 in 100 overs when stumps were drawn. Vijay Shankar was batting on 14, while Mohamed Ali remained unbeaten on 17. "We are happy with the lead we got, it's all by God's grace. We would have been happier had we got 30 or 40 runs more as lead. But let's not forget it is a knock-out game and Saurashtra has some quality bowlers in their ranks with their captain Jaydev Unadkat leading from the front," said Sai Kishore after the day's play.

On Friday evening, skipper Sai Kishore had hoped to lead by example. Not only did he get a fifty, but his small partnership with B Indrajith helped his side arrest the slide.

"It was no doubt the most crucial 50 of my career. I always like to lead by example and more than my 50, the small partnership that I had with Indrajith was crucial," Sai Kishore remarked.

Karun Nair shines
NAGPUR: Karun Nair's 90-run knock was the highlight of the day as Vidarbha posted 460 all out in their quarterfinal against Karnataka here. Resuming the second day on 261 for three after Atharva Taide's century and Yash Rathod's 93, Vidarbha rode on Nair's innings to post a big first-innings total. In reply, Karnataka were 98 for two at stumps.

Musheer hits unbeaten 203 for Mumbai
MUMBAI: Mumbai were ahead by 257 runs in the first innings after Musheer Khan struck an unbeaten 203, with Baroda reaching 127/2 in reply by the close of play on day two in their quarterfinal clash here. Bhargav Bhatt toiled to return a seven-wicket haul but Musheer worked his way to a fine unbeaten double hundred, powering Mumbai to 383 in the first innings at the BKC Ground.

MP fight back against Andhra
INDORE: A collective bowling performance helped Madhya Pradesh stage a remarkable fightback and extend their overall lead to 83 runs at stumps on the second day against Andhra here on Saturday. The 2021-22 winners MP resumed the day at 234 for 9 and they lost their last wicket without adding any run to their total. For Andhra, KV Sasikanth took 4 for 37 while Nithish Kumar Reddy returned with figures of 3/50.

Wrestling federation calls for selection trials
CHENNAI: The Wrestling Federation of India has announced dates for selection trials in 17 Olympic weight categories. All the trials, barring Antim's, will be held on March 10. Selection for Antim's 53kg will be held on March 11. Winners of the trials will represent country in the Olympic qualifier as well as Asian Championships in Bishkek. Non-Olympic weight category trials will be held on March 11.

EXPRESS READ

Dubai Championship: Nagal gets wild card

DUBAI: India's Sumit Nagal has received a wild card for the main draw of the Dubai Championship, an ATP 500 event. While the qualifiers began on Saturday, the main draw matches get underway on Monday. Nagal will be up against Lorenzo Sonego of Italy, currently World No 49, in the opening round.

Ruud ousts Tsitsipas to reach final in Mexico

LOS CABOS (MEXICO): Casper Ruud rode a strong start to a 6-4, 7-6 (4) victory over defending champion Stefanos Tsitsipas to reach the final of the ATP hardcourt tournament in Los Cabos, Mexico. Ruud didn't lose a point on his first serve in the opening set, then had to save five set points in the second to seal victory.



Shoaib Bashir was the pick of the bowlers for England on Saturday | AP

Smooth operator Bashir comes to the four

GOMESH S @ Ranchi

SHOAIB Bashir was a late bolter to the England squad. He may not even have made it to the touring party if a video hadn't gone viral last Summer.

First, some history. The lanky off-spinner had spent all his time at Surrey until U-18 before being let go. Then, having bowled well for Berkshire U18s, he was signed by Somerset where he made his first-class debut last year. Not that he set the stage on fire — 10 wickets in six games at 67 says as much — but he sent down 203 overs (almost 34 overs a game). On his debut, he bowled 49 overs against Essex. Sometime during that match, he had come to

face with Alastair Cook. The official County Championship account on X (formerly Twitter) edited and uploaded a video of Bashir bowling to Cook.

As fate would have it, England captain Ben Stokes saw the video and sent it to head coach Brendon McCullum, and Rob Key, managing director of the England Cricket Board, asking them to take a look. Bashir was called up for England Lions tour to the United Arab Emirates where he impressed the team management.

They wanted him in the side for the upcoming India tour: He was odds on to make a debut in the opening match but had to wait as a visa snag stopped him from travelling with the touring

party. In the second Test at Viskhapatnam, he did. There, he accounted for Rohit Sharma. Having been left out at Rajkot, the off-spinner was brought in for Rehan Ahmed and on this surface he was crucial for England's scheme of things. He came on in the ninth over and just held one end — literally — for almost two sessions. Bashir kept at the fifth-sixth stumpline more often than not without giving much width or length for the batters to get under. His high release point combined with the slowness of the surface made it all the more harder to hit him out of attack.

Some of his deliveries kept really low while some had extra bounced (because of his height

too) as was the case against Ravindra Jadeja — a trademark close-in catch dismissal for an off-spinner. He also had the last laugh against Yashasvi Jaiswal, who was closing in on another hundred, as the ball kept low and he bottom-edged to the stumps. The celebrations said it all. Bashir bowled 31 overs on the trot and one afterwards, finished with 4/84, almost single-handedly keeping giving England the best chance to win. "He's a great young lad to have in the group. I've not seen much of him, and I might not have known much about him before this series, but he's got a great character," Joe Root said about Bashir.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Record-setting victory for Bundesliga leaders

AGENCIES @ Leverkusen

A LONG-RANGE shot from Robert Andrich took Bundesliga leaders Bayer Leverkusen to a 2-1 home win against Mainz on Friday, setting a new German record of 33 games unbeaten. Andrich's goal was helped by a goalkeeping mistake from Mainz's Robin Zentner, who allowed the ball to slip through his hands and into the net.

Leverkusen were nervy and made a number of uncharacteristic errors, but the victory takes them 11 points clear of Bayern Munich in their bid for a first-ever Bundesliga title.

"We have to be honest and say we didn't play a great game and were a bit lucky to win, but we weren't complain about the three points," Andrich told DAZN. Bayern, who announced their plan to part ways with coach Thomas Tuchel in the summer on Wednesday, host RB Leipzig on Saturday.



Leverkusen players celebrate Robert Andrich's goal vs Mainz | AP

Man United lose, Villa win

MANCHESTER: Manchester United's air of optimism was punctured as Alex Iwobi's 97th minute winner handed Fulham their first win at Old Trafford since 2003, while Aston Villa surged clear in fourth by beating Nottingham Forest 4-2 on Saturday. United had won their previous four Premier League games to rekindle hope of qualifying for Champions League, but a 2-1 defeat leaves them eight points adrift of Villa.

SHOOTOUT HEARTBREAK FOR HARMANPREET & CO

AGENCIES @ Rourkela

THE Indian men's team suffered a heartbreaking 0-3 defeat in the shootout to nemesis Australia in its FIH Pro League match here on Saturday.

Australia also earned a bonus point for the victory.

India were on their way to humble the mighty Australian team and end their unbeaten run in the Odisha leg until Craig Tom scored in the fourth and final quarter to take

the match into the shootout. Skipper Harmanpreet Singh (20th minute) and Amit Rohidas (29th minute) scored for the home team, while Governors Blake and Tom (53rd minute) found the target for the visiting Australian team in regulation time.

In the shootout, Tim Brand, Ogilvie and Tom Wickham scored for Australia, but Akashdeep Singh, Sukhjeet Singh and Lalit Kumar Upadhyay missed their attempts for India.

KALYANI MANGALE @ Chennai

IMAGINE you are under the lid with your team requiring 12 runs off the last over on your debut. Two batters in the middle currently batting for your team have heaps of experience. You are not expecting to go out in the middle. The first ball of the over, one of them gets out, but your captain is still out there. The penultimate ball of the match, even the captain is dismissed with five runs required. The opposition is pumped up and they can smell the win. This is what the situation was when Mumbai Indian's Sajeevan Sajana sprinted out to bat at the M Chinnas-

Odisha FC held by Mohun Bagan

AGENCIES @ Bhubaneswar

ODISHA FC and Mohun Bagan Super Giant played out a goal-less draw at the Kalinga Stadium here in the Indian Super League (ISL) on Saturday.

With their competitors elevating their performance levels lately, Odisha have been put under pressure to not drop points in their pursuit of the top spot in the points table.

Mumbai City FC equalled them on points on Friday with a victory over Chennaiyin FC, with only a superior goal difference keeping in the Sergio Lobera-coached side ahead in the race.

However, they were unable to make the most of the opportunity at home against an upbeat Mohun Bagan side, who extended their unbeaten streak to five games under Antonio



Action from the match between Odisha FC & Mohun Bagan Super Giant | ISI

Lopez Habas in the ISL.

BFC get vital victory

BENGALURU: Bengaluru FC bounced back to winning ways with a captivating 2-1 victory against Hyderabad FC on Sunil

Chhetri's 150 ISL appearance. The Blues (18) have moved to the eighth spot with this victory, just two short of the sixth-placed Jamshedpur FC, thus helping keep their playoff qualification hopes alive.

WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE

Sajeevan Sajana at elite stage after years of persistence



SATURDAY'S MATCH (BRIEF SCORES)
RCB 157/6 in 20 ovs (Ghosh 62, Meghana 53; Gayakwad 2/24) bt UP Warriorz 155/7 (Harris 38, Sehrawat 31; Asha 5/22).

lected for the district, I started earning money, ₹150 per day. It was a big amount for me," she said in the video posted by WPL after the match. The daughter of an autorickshaw driver and

panchayat councillor and accountant mother in Mananthavady village developed a love for the game despite her humble economic background. "She always had family support and no one ever stopped her from playing cricket. But to travel for cricket every day with a lack of money from the area she comes from is in itself a challenge. But I have never seen her make any excuse for that. Knowing you are going through all the challenges and still staying motivated is a tough task," Suman Sharma, the head coach of the Kerala women's team, told this daily. The economic adversity, the devastating floods that de-

stroyed the state in 2018, or even the pandemic, nothing could halt her pursuit. "The 2018 floods were particularly hard for her family. The water covered all of the first floor where she was staying. I cannot even imagine how she and her family survived those difficult times," Sharma got emotional speaking about it.

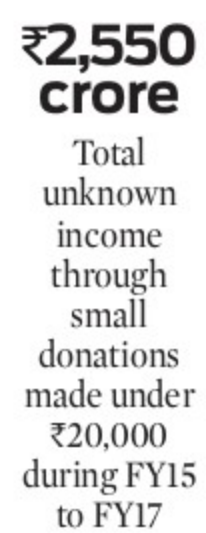
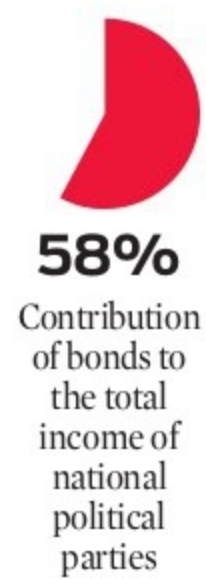
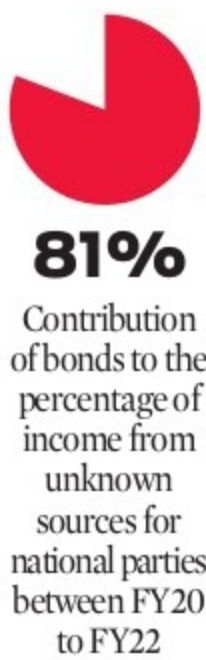
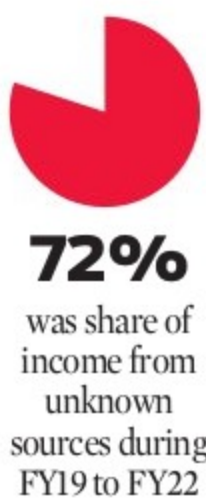
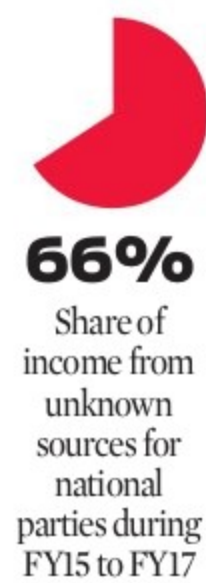
Despite not getting picked in the first season, where her fellow state teammate Minnu Mani got the opportunity to play for Delhi Capitals, Sajana never lost hope and kept working hard in the domestic circuit and Sharma knew her determination would come through.

Full story: newindianexpress.com



Economic inequality leads to differing levels of political engagement because of the deep association between money and politics. At a primary level, political contributions give a "seat at the table" to the contributor, the CJI said in his verdict

Figures that matter



PREETHA NAIR

POLITICAL contributions give a seat at the table to the contributor. This access also translates into influence over policy-making," said Supreme Court Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud while declaring the electoral bond scheme illegal in a landmark judgment on February 15. The CJI's sharp words underscore the notion of the unholy nexus between money power and political parties, and how anonymous donors through electoral bonds could have played a dominant role in electoral outcomes.

It took seven years for the Supreme Court to invalidate it after multiple parties challenged the constitutionality of the electoral bonds scheme, which was introduced in 2017. The court directed the State Bank of India (SBI) to stop issuing electoral bonds with immediate effect.

Significantly, while scrapping the scheme, the five-judge Constitution bench upheld the voter's right to information about who is funding political parties and their campaigns under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.

Coming on the eve of the Lok Sabha elections, the verdict also has the potential to alter the political landscape of the country, says Jagdeep S Chhokar of the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), one of the lead petitioners against the scheme. It has been a long battle for Chhokar who first moved the court in 2017 challenging the validity of the scheme, which allows complete anonymity in political funding. Speaking to this newspaper, Chhokar said that in its judgment, the SC categorically stated that a level playing field amongst various political parties is a significant component of democracy and the bond scheme vitiated the political system.

"In its ruling, the court categorically said that the level playing field amongst various political parties is a significant component of democracy. It also observed that anything that disturbs the level playing field is unconstitutional. That's an important observation, which has a bearing on a lot of things in our political system. Going by the data, the uneven distribution of money is disrupting the level playing field," he said.

Vipul Mudgal, director and Chief Executive of Common Cause, a co-petitioner in the case, echoes the view. "We filed the petition because the scheme was a regressive step as far as transparency of donations is concerned. However, the court did the best thing by upholding the citizens' right to information over the privacy of any donor or individual," Mudgal told this newspaper.

BJP, the biggest benefactor

Data shows how the scheme completely changed political financing in India. The ruling BJP received nearly 56% of the electoral bond funds between 2018 and 2023 March. In contrast, the Congress, the principal opposition party, got only 9.3% during the same period. The BJP received ₹210 crore in 2017-18 when the bond scheme was introduced. In a significant increase, the party got ₹1,450.89 crore in 2018-19, ₹2,555 crore in 2019-20, ₹22.38 crore in 2020-21, ₹1,033.70 crore in 2021-22 and ₹1,294.14 crore in 2022-23.

In comparison, the Congress got ₹5 crore in 2017-18, ₹383.26 crore in 2018-19, ₹317.86 crore in 2019-20, ₹10.07 crore in 2020-21, ₹236.09 crore in 2021-22 and ₹171.01 crore in 2022-23, according to data sourced from the Election Commission.

In FY 2022-23, the BJP got seven times more funds than the Congress from electoral bonds. The BJP collected a maximum of ₹2,555 crore in 2019-20 when the last Lok Sabha polls were held. Incidentally, the 2019 Lok Sabha election has created a record of being the most expensive in the world with an expenditure of a whopping ₹60,000 crore. However, Congress received only ₹317.86 crore during the same period.

In its verdict, the SC also pointed out that the income from electoral bonds between the years 2018-19 to 2021-22 constituted 58% of the total income of the national political parties.

The ADR data also show that the BJP received the lion's

share through electoral bonds between 2018 and 2023. Out of the total ₹850.40 crore donated to national parties in 2022-23, the BJP alone garnered ₹719.80 crore. The Centre told Parliament in February that bonds worth over ₹16,518 crore have been sold since 2018. Though the government still maintains that electoral bonds bring more transparency, statistics don't support the claim.

As per the ADR data, the share of unknown sources of income for national parties increased from 66% between 2015 and 2017 to 72% in 2019-2022. Judge Sanjiv Khanna, in his judgment, said that 94% of the value of donations came from electoral bonds of ₹1 crore donation which indicates the "quantum of corporate funding".

What are electoral bonds

It is a bond issued like a promissory note which shall be a bearer banking instrument and shall not carry the name of the buyer or payee. Touted as an electoral reform measure, the electoral bond scheme was introduced by the Modi government in 2017, which allowed individuals and companies to donate unlimited money to political parties in an anonymous way. Pitched as an alternative to cash donations, the then finance minister Arun Jaitley claimed that the scheme would bring more transparency and prevent black money in the system.

It allowed an individual, groups or corporates to buy electoral bonds from SBI and donate them to any political party of their choice. The interest-free bonds are sold in multiples of ₹1,000, ₹10,000, ₹1 lakh, ₹10 lakh and ₹1 crore. Political parties that secured at least 1% of the votes in the last Lok Sabha or assembly elections were eligible to accept the bonds.

Amendments

Though introduced in 2017, the electoral bonds scheme was notified in 2018. The government used the money bill route to bring in the laws to bypass scrutiny by the Rajya Sabha. The government also swiftly pushed through amendments to the Representation of the People Act and Income Tax Act, which made the donations anonymous. It also made amendments to the Companies Act, the Reserve Bank of India Act, and the Foreign Contribution Regulations Act (FCRA).

Chokkar points out that the amendments have done away with the cap that companies could only donate up to 7.5% of their profit to political parties without disclosing the details. Also, the amended FCRA allowed foreign companies and even shell companies to donate to political parties without revealing their identity.

"With this, foreign entities can take control of the Indian political system, which is a threat to the integrity and security of the country. Foreign companies can donate to political parties through shell companies, which is a very risky thing. It also enables foreign companies to set up their subsidiaries in Indian arms just to function as a conduit for giving funds to political parties," said Chokkar.

Since the inception of the scheme, the government has tweaked many rules, says Chokkar. In November 2022, the government through an official gazette, allowed the sale of bonds for an additional 15 days in years that have state elections. According to the RBI rule, only an additional period of 30 days was allowed to be specified by the Central government in the year of the Lok Sabha elections. From 2018, the sale of bonds was allowed for state elections also, says Chokkar.

"The bonds were introduced for Parliament elections. However, the government changed the rules several times. The rules say that the sale of bonds should take place only in the first 10 days of January, April, July, and October. However, they sold the bonds on the eve of two state elections in May and November 2018," he points out.

Red flags by RBI and ECI

Even before the introduction of the electoral bonds, the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had misgivings about the scheme. Regarding the removal of the cap on corporate donations, the RBI felt that it would pave the way for the setting up



of shell companies for donations to political parties. The ECI also expressed reservations about anonymous corporate funding and said that it would have "a serious impact on the transparency of political finance/funding of political parties". By removing the cap on corporate funding, the government allowed the complete takeover by

corporates, says Mudgal.

"The pitfall is that deep pockets will fund everything and the parties will carry their agenda. No party would need my ₹5k or 2k. They don't want to carry my agenda," he said.

March 13 deadline

With the SC setting a deadline of

March 13 to publish the names and details of all donors to political parties, CPI(M) Politburo member Subhashini Ali says it will help uncover the quid pro quo between parties and corporate donors. The court has directed the SBI to submit the details of their encashment since April 12, 2019, to the EC by March 6. The EC has been di-

rected to publish on its website the information shared by SBI by March 13.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist), one of the petitioners who filed the plea against the scheme in 2018, is the only political party that did not accept donations through electoral bonds, says Ali.

"The BJP has been defending the scheme which was struck down by the SC as it sabotages democracy. The court said this could mean that there are very serious concessions being made in exchange for this money which is given in an opaque manner. So once the names and the amounts are revealed, people who care about cleaning up the electoral process will start making the connections," said Ali.

An RTI query showed that the latest tranche of electoral bonds worth more than ₹570 crore have been sold from January 2 to January 11, 2024, at 29 locations across the country. Mudgal says with elections around the corner, parties must have already utilised the money for their campaigns. Ali says that the recipient parties have the moral responsibility to return the money after the publishing of the list of donors.

Implications of the SC verdict

The judgment has larger implications and will set a precedent for political parties, says Chokkar. "The government had argued that the citizens have a right to know about the sources of funding of the candidates, but not the sources of funding of the political parties. But the SC made it very clear that political parties are as much part of the electoral system, perhaps even more important than the candidates. Therefore, citizens have a right to know about the sources of funding of political parties. This judgment will be used in a variety of ways and will set a good precedent in election-related cases in the future," he said.

ANANDA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.,
Reg. No. JRB/01/17/488479-50 Dated: 23-4-79
Administrative Office : No. 116, (1st Floor), 2nd Main Road, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru - 560020. Phone : 23447829, E-Mail : anandacbd_1979@yahoo.com

POSSESSION NOTICE See Rule - 8(1) (For Immovable Property)
Whereas The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Ananda Co-Operative Bank Ltd., under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the power conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 has issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrowers / Mortgagees / Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on below mentioned dates.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Ananda Co-Operative Bank Ltd., for an amount interest and Other Charges mentioned below. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Basaveshwaranagara Branch

(1) Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: (1) Mrs. Jayanthi M W/o Solomon Peter No. 73, H Street, Corporation High School Down, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560023.
Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs. 29,81,537/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakhs Eighty One Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Seven Only) as on 31/01/2024 together with future interest thereon at contractual interest rate and costs charges till the date of realization and costs charges till the date of realization.

Demand Notice Dated : 23/11/2023 Possession Notice Date: 21.02.2024

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and Parcel of property bearing PID No.31-2-12, Western Portion of the Old No.55B, Subsequently 26 & 27 and presently No.12, situated at 1st Cross Road, Kempapura Agrahara Magadi Road, Bangalore, measuring East to West 29 feet, North to South 50 feet and bounded by the following Boundaries: East: Remaining portion of the same property, West: Private Property, North: Road, South: Road.

(2) Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: (1) Mr. Raja Gopala Gowda H V S/o Venkataramaiah No.26, 3rd Main, K H B Colony, 1st Stage, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore-560079.
Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs. 14,98,336/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Ninety Eight Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Six Only) as on 31/01/2024 together with future interest thereon at contractual interest rate and costs charges till the date of realization and costs charges till the date of realization.

Demand Notice Dated : 23/11/2023 Possession Notice Date: 21.02.2024

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and Parcel of property bearing No.26, PID No.18-61-26, Survey No.44, Agraharadasarahalli, 3rd Main, KHB Colony, 1st Stage, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore-560079, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 30 feet and bounded by the following Boundaries: East: Road, West: Site No.17, North: Site No.25, South: Road.

(3) Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: (1) Mr. Shivanna S/o Ningsai No.39/2, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Manjunath Nagar, Nagasandra Post, Bangalore-560073.
Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs. 14,90,403/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Ninety Thousand Four Hundred Three Only) as on 31/01/2024 together with future interest thereon at contractual interest rate and costs charges till the date of realization and costs charges till the date of realization.

Demand Notice Dated : 23/11/2023 Possession Notice Date: 21.02.2024

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and Parcel of property bearing No.41, North Portion Bagaligunte Village, Katha No.87/2, Assessment No.87/2, Dasarahalli, Municipality Ward Hall BBMP Ward No.14, Yashwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 15 feet, totally measuring 600 sq. ft. and bounded by the following Boundaries: East: Site No.32, West: Road, North: Site No.40, South: Site No.41 south portion.

Sheshadripuram Branch

(4) Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: (1) Mr. N Sridhar S/o Late Naganna (2) Mr. N Prakash S/o Late Naganna both are residing at No.303, 1st Main, 1st Block, Jakkasandra Extension, Koramangala, Bangalore-560034.
Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs. 72,46,234/- (Rupees Seventy Two Lakhs Forty Six Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Four Only) as on 31/01/2024 together with future interest thereon at contractual interest rate and costs charges till the date of realization and costs charges till the date of realization.

Demand Notice Dated : 07/11/2023 Possession Notice Date: 21.02.2024

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and Parcel of House property bearing Old No.16, New No.20, Corporation Division No.68, Katha No.233, House List No.147, BBMP Municipal No.151, PID No.68-94-20, 1st Main Road, Jakkasandra, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South, Bangalore measuring East to West 63'51/2 feet and North to South 35'40/2 feet and bounded by the following Boundaries: East : Road, West : Muniyappa's Property, North : Site No.2, South : BDA Road.

(5) Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: (1) Mrs. Venkatalakshmi G M W/o S Puttaraju No.U-95, 7th Main Road, R Gopal Swamy Iyers Colony, Srirampura, Bangalore-560021 Also at: No.211, 2nd Floor, 1st Cross, Balaji Layout, Byadarahalli, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560091.
Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs.30,04,275/- (Rupees Thirty Lakhs Four Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Five Only) as on 31/01/2024 together with future interest thereon at contractual interest rate and costs charges till the date of realization and costs charges till the date of realization.

Demand Notice Dated : 23/11/2023 Possession Notice Date: 21.02.2024

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and Parcel of property bearing PID No.24-64-8/1, No.1948/8, Ward No.24, 7th Main Road, R G I Colony Extension, Rajajinagar, Corporation 8/1, Bangalore, measuring East to West 10.25 meters and North to South 7.20 meters and bounded by the following Boundaries: East : Property No.1913, West: Road, North : Property No.1947, South: Property No.1949.

Date : 21.02.2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer
Place : Bangalore Ananda Co-Operative Bank Ltd.,

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Stressed Assets Recovery Branch
No.11/90, 3rd Floor, Opp. Trust Well Hospital, J C Road, Bengaluru - 560 002.
Phone: 080- 25943677, 25943663, Fax : (080) 25943664 Email:sbi.05173@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
Under Rule - 8 (1) (For immovable property)

Whereas, The Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, J.C. Road, Bengaluru under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the following borrowers/mortgagors/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with future interest together with incidental expenses, cost, charges etc within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the said notice. Details of demand notices such as date of issue and loan outstanding amount are mentioned against each borrower hereunder.

1. Name of the borrower : Mr. Kowshik A Y S/O Mr. Vishwanath A K No.158, 6th Cross, Mahaganapathy Nagar, 5th Phase, West of Chord Road, Bengaluru 560010, And also at Zespi International, 13th Floor, Romell Tech Park, Goregaon East, Mumbai - 400063, Co-Borrower : Mrs.Bindu Y V, D/o Biddappa Y C. No.158, 6th Cross, Mahaganapathy Nagar, 5th Phase, West Of Chord Road, Bengaluru - 560010. Work Place: Bloom Energy, 3rd Floor, IT Park, Industrial Estate, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru - 560044. Email: yb.bindhu@gmail.com
Demand Notice date:21.11.2023 A/c.No. HTL/38937643390
Balance as on that date was Rs. 69,56,551 (Rupees Sixty nine lakhs fifty six thousands five hundred fifty One only) as on 20.11.2023 and interest & expenses thereon
Possession Taken date : 21.02.2024
Outstanding Loan amount: Rs.72,73,366/- (Rupees Seventy two lakhs seventy three thousand three hundred sixty six only) as on 19.02.2024 and interest plus expenses thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: SCHEDULE A PROPERTY : ITEM NO.1 : All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land measuring an extent of 31 guntas comprised in Sy.No.164/3 of S.Medahalli village, Sarjapur Hobli, Anekal taluk (duly converted vide official memorandum dated 16.12.2008 bearing no. ALN(AS)/SR/54/2008-09, issued by The District Commissioner, Bengaluru Dist) and bounded on the: East By : Land Bearing Sy. No. 164/2, West By : Land Bearing Sy. No.72, North By: Land Bearing Sy. No.164/1, South By: Land Bearing Sy. No. 165

ITEM NO.2 : All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land measuring an extent of 25 guntas comprised in Sy.No.165/1, of S.MEDAHALLI village, Sarjapur Hobli, Anekal Taluk (duly converted vide official memorandum dated 22.07.2010 bearing No. ALN(ASH)/SR/22/2010-11, issued by The District Commissioner, Bengaluru District.) and bounded on the : East By : Land Bearing Sy.no.172, West By: Land Bearing Sy. No.72, North By: Land Bearing Sy. No. 164, South By: Land Bearing Sy. No. 165/2

SCHEDULE B PROPERTY: 0.89% undivided share, right, title and interest in schedule A property measuring about 546.0 sq. feet in an undivided state has been sold to the purchaser by the owner/developer Under this deed.

SCHEDULE C RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT : Residential apartment having E khatha No. 150200102701020864, bearing no. 219 situated in the FIRST FLOOR of the building, measuring about 1676 sq feet of super built up area consisting of THREE BED ROOM with RCC roofing, tiled flooring, moulded doors and aluminium windows including proportionate share in the common area such as passage, lobbies, staircase, lifts and other areas common use contained in the residential apartments complex known as "PUSHPAM E TOWN" constructed on the Schedule A Property with one covered car parking exclusively earmarked for the sole use and enjoyment of the purchaser built according to the plan approved by Anekal Planning Authority, vide its order no. CC/526/2013-14, dated 13.10.2013 on single site plan approved by Anekal Planning Authority vide its order No.LAO/34/2012-13, bounded on: East By : Apartment No.220, West By : OTS, North By: Common Corridor, South By: OTS Road.

2. Name of the borrower : Mr. Kowshik A Y S/o Mr. Vishwanath A K No.158, 6th Cross, Mahaganapathy Nagar, 5th Phase, West of Chord Road, Bengaluru 560010, And also at Zespi International, 13th Floor, Romell Tech Park, Goregaon East, Mumbai - 400063, Co-Borrower : Mrs.Bindu Y V, D/o Biddappa Y C. No.158, 6th Cross, Mahaganapathy Nagar, 5th Phase, West Of Chord Road, Bengaluru - 560010. Work Place: Bloom Energy, 3rd Floor, IT Park, Industrial Estate, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru - 560044. Email: yb.bindhu@gmail.com
Demand Notice date:21.11.2023 A/c.No. HTL/38937652826
Balance as on that date was : Rs. 52,74,209 (Rupees Fifty two lakhs seventy four thousands two hundred nine only) as on 15.11.2023 and interest & expenses thereon
Possession Taken date : 21.02.2024
Outstanding Loan amount: Rs.54,00,173/- (Rupees Fifty Four lakhs one hundred seventy three only) as on 19.02.2024 and interest plus expenses thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: SCHEDULE A PROPERTY : ITEM NO.1 : All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land measuring an extent of 31 guntas comprised in Sy.No.164/3 of S.Medahalli village, Sarjapur Hobli, Anekal taluk (duly converted vide official memorandum dated 16.12.2008 bearing no. ALN(AS)/SR/54/2008-09, issued by The District Commissioner, Bengaluru Dist) and bounded on the: East By : Land Bearing Sy. No. 164/2, West By : Land Bearing Sy. No.72, North By: Land Bearing Sy. No.164/1, South By: Land Bearing Sy. No. 165

ITEM NO.2 : All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land measuring an extent of 25 guntas comprised in Sy.No.165/1, of S.MEDAHALLI village, Sarjapur Hobli, Anekal Taluk (duly converted vide official memorandum dated 22.07.2010 bearing No. ALN(ASH)/SR/22/2010-11, issued by The District Commissioner, Bengaluru District.) and bounded on the : East By : Land Bearing Sy.no.172, West By: Land Bearing Sy. No.72, North By: Land Bearing Sy. No. 164, South By: Land Bearing Sy. No. 165/2

SCHEDULE B PROPERTY: 0.64% undivided share, right, title and interest in schedule A property measuring about 390.5 sq. feet in an undivided state has been sold to the purchaser by the owner/developer Under this deed.

SCHEDULE C RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT : Residential Apartment having E Katha No. 1502001027010221059 bearing No.411 situated in Third Floor of the building, measuring about 1198 sq.ft of super built up area consisting of Two Bed Room with RCC roofing, tiled flooring, moulded doors and aluminium windows including proportionate share in common area such as passage, lobbies, staircase, lifts and other areas of common use contained in the residential apartment complex known as "PUSHPAM E TOWN" constructed on the A property with one covered car parking space exclusively earmarked for the sole use and enjoyment of the purchaser, built according to the plan approved by Anekal Planning Authority vide its order no. CC/526/2013/14, dated 30th Oct 2013 on single site plan approved by Anekal Planning Authority vide its order no. LAO/34/2012-13, bounded on : East By : Common Corridor, West By : Apartment No. 410, North By: Lift, South By: Apartment No. 415

The above mentioned borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors having failed to repay the amount as mentioned in the Demand notices, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors and the public in general that the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of State of India, Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, J.C. Road, Bengaluru has taken possession of the properties described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, 2002 on above mentioned date.

The borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India, for amount mentioned against their names with further interest at contractual rate with incidental expenses, cost, charges charges etc., thereon.

The borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sd/- Authorised Officer & Chief Manager
State Bank of India,
Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, Bengaluru

Place :Bengaluru
Date: 21.02.2024